



Victoria R. L.

Merchant Company Schools
EDINBURGH







Victoria R.

Born 1819;
Ascended the Throne 1837.

Life of
Queen Victoria

A BOOK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.



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THIS "LIFE OF QUEEN VICTORIA" is intended to furnish young people in all parts of her dominions with a simple and connected account of her personal history, public events being referred to only when they have a close connection with her Majesty's private life. The story of the Queen's own life has been kept in the front all through, and in such a way as to allow her character to reveal itself in her actions and her words.

The Queen's reign is, thus far, the fourth longest in the list of English sovereigns. The three that have surpassed her are those of Henry the Third, Edward the Third, and George the Third. Henry the Third reigned fifty-six years and one month. Edward the Third reigned fifty years and five months. George the Third reigned fifty-nine years and three months. Henry was only nine years of age when he came to the throne, and Edward was only thirteen, and their earlier years were spent under regents and protectors. George, on the other hand, ceased to reign nine years before his death. Queen Victoria has spent the whole of her fifty years on the throne in the active exercise of the sovereignty, and in this sense it may be claimed for her reign that it is the longest of any English sovereign's.

The chief glory of the reign, however, lies not in its length but in the greatness of its achievements, and in the character of the Sovereign who has guided, guarded, and cherished them.

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BUCKINGHAM PALACE FROM ST. JAMES' PARK

LIFE OF QUEEN VICTORIA.

CHAPTER I.

THE FAMILY OF GEORGE III.

TOWARD the close of the long reign of George the Third, there was born in Kensington Palace a little girl who was destined to establish the British Monarchy more securely than ever in the hearts of the people, and to extend the British Empire more widely than at any former period. That was the Princess Victoria, daughter of Edward, Duke of Kent, the fourth son of George the Third. She was born on the 24th of May 1819.

Those were times of much anxiety and wide-spread discontent, especially among the working classes. Four years had passed since the Peace of 1815 closed the long series of Napoleonic wars, and they were years of intense suffering and misery. A series of brilliant victories, from Vimiera to Waterloo, had

brought much glory to the British arms; but they had also laid heavy burdens on the British tax-payer. In twenty-two years, the National Debt had risen from 239 million to 860 million sterling. Probably the country could not have survived the strain at all, had not manufactures been at the same time greatly developed by the invention of improved machinery.

As it was, the Peace found British commerce almost at a stand-still. The weight of taxation was well-nigh intolerable. Food was scarce and dear. There was little demand for labour, and therefore wages were low. Matters were not improved by the Government of the day, which, in its desire to favour farmers and land-owners, passed an Act restricting the importation of corn, and thus keeping up the price of bread. The Act led to riots in the larger towns, which were attended with great destruction of property, and in many cases with loss of life. Then arose the cry for Parliamentary Reform, on the ground that the House of Commons, which imposed the taxes, did not represent the people.

In these circumstances the loyalty of the people was very much strained. The royal family was far from being popular. The old king was insane and blind, and had passed out of the minds of his subjects almost as completely as they had from his.

George, Prince of Wales, had ruled as Prince-Regent for eight years, and he was extremely unpopular. In 1817—a year of gloom and threatening storm—the prince was fired at when returning from the opening of Parliament. The reason was, not merely that he was personally disliked, but also that he was the representative of oppression and injustice in the popular mind.

Toward the end of the year, an event occurred which revived for a time the waning loyalty of the people. The Princess Charlotte, only child of the Prince-Regent, and wife of Leopold of Saxe-Coburg, afterwards King of the Belgians, died. She was a princess of great amiability, and had in an extraordinary degree won the affection of the British people. She was as much beloved as her father was distrusted; and as, after him, she was heir to the throne, her death was felt to be a national calamity.

The lamented death of this princess caused great anxiety as to the succession to the crown. The only member of George the Third's family who had a son was the Duke of Cumberland; but he was so heartily disliked that many persons believed that his accession would have produced a revolution.* Up till this time,

* Lord Campbell wrote in 1835: "If the Duke of Cumberland were next heir, a revolution would be inevitable."

the younger sons of George the Third had remained unmarried; partly owing to the foreign wars, which kept them on active service abroad; and partly owing to the Royal Marriage Act of 1772, which forbade their marrying without the king's consent. Now, however, three of them—the Dukes of Clarence, Kent, and Cambridge—married in the same year, 1818; the two former on the same day—July 17.

The Duke of Clarence (afterwards William the Fourth) married the Princess Adelaide of Saxe-Meiningen. They had two daughters, both of whom died in infancy.

The Duke of Kent married the Princess Victoria Maria Louisa of Saxe-Coburg, a sister of Prince Leopold, and widow of the Prince of Leiningen. They had already been married in Germany; but it was thought advisable to repeat the ceremony in England, to prevent any doubt or difficulty that might arise as to the succession of their offspring. Their only child was the Princess Victoria.

It is worth noting, that that princess, now Queen Victoria, is descended from Alfred the Great, from William the Conqueror, and from Robert the Bruce. She is thirty-fourth in descent from Alfred, twenty-seventh in descent from the Conqueror, and eighteenth in descent from the Bruce. It is curious to observe,

that the connecting link in the succession has been in every case an English or a Scottish princess. Margaret, the Ætheling's sister who married Malcolm Canmore, connected the House of Alfred with that of Stewart. Margaret's daughter, Edith Matilda, wife of Henry the First, connected the House of Alfred with that of the Conqueror. Marjory Bruce, wife of Walter the Steward, connected the House of Bruce with that of Stewart. Margaret Tudor, wife of James the Fourth of Scotland, connected the line of the Conqueror with the House of Stewart. Finally, Elizabeth Stewart, who married the Elector Palatine, connected all the royal English and Scottish lines with the House of Hanover.

CHAPTER II.

THE QUEEN'S FATHER.

EDWARD, Duke of Kent, fourth son of George the Third, was born in 1767. He was educated for the military profession, chiefly in Germany, where he acquired that love of order and those habits of strict discipline which characterized him throughout his life. He was gazetted colonel in 1786, and was soon afterwards made a Knight of the Garter.

Prince Edward was not a favourite either with his father or with his brothers. He was badly treated by them during the greater part of his life; and on that account he spent much of his time abroad. Tory governments punished him for his Liberalism, by granting him an allowance on which it was impossible for him to live in a manner befitting his rank. He consequently contracted debts, which trammelled him all his life.

When he was twenty years of age, his father sent him to Geneva. His necessities compelled him to return to England somewhat suddenly. As he did so without his father's knowledge or consent, the king ordered him to Gibraltar on twenty-four hours' notice, and refused to see him except for a few minutes the night before his departure.

We next find Prince Edward in Canada, with his regiment, the 7th Royal Fusileers. He spent several years in the colony, and won both the esteem and the affection of the people. He discharged his military duties with great efficiency and punctuality; and he also showed a lively and intelligent interest in the general affairs of the colony. From Canada he was transferred to the West Indies and to Nova Scotia. In 1800, St. John's Island, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, was re-named "Prince Edward Island" in his honour. In the same year he returned to England.

After spending nearly two years at home, the prince was sent to Gibraltar as governor. He found there a state of matters that called for prompt and courageous treatment. The garrison—officers and men alike—were unruly, and threatened to mutiny. Prince Edward, now Duke of Kent, at once enforced strict rules of discipline, and strove by other means—for example, by reducing the number of licensed drinking-

places on the Rock—to reform the garrison. His measures were partly successful, but they caused so much discontent that he was recalled in the following year.

Soon after this the duke's income was considerably improved by his appointment to the colonelcy of the First Royal Scots. In presenting a set of new colours to that regiment in 1876, Queen Victoria said: "It gives me much pleasure to remind you that I have been associated with your regiment from my earliest infancy, when my dear father was your Colonel. He was proud of his profession, and I was always taught to consider myself a soldier's child." A few years later, the duke was advanced to the rank of Field Marshal.

At home, as he had done when abroad, the duke found it possible to combine with the prompt discharge of his professional duties an active interest in the improvement of the people. He was the most popular member of the royal family—the one to whom the public naturally looked as the friend and patron of every benevolent work. There was scarcely a charitable institution in England with which he was not directly connected. He was patron of the Anti-Slavery Society at a time when it was not fashionable to plead the cause of the slave; and of the British and Foreign

School Society, when the friends of education were not numerous in high places. It also redounds to his credit that he was the first colonel of a British regiment that established a regimental school.

These services endeared the Duke of Kent to the British people. Even when his circumstances forced him to quit London and reside in Brussels, he was not forgotten. The news of his intended marriage was received with genuine gladness—all the more that the event was likely to lead to his return to England.

The Duke of Kent was fifty-one years of age at the time of his marriage. He was a tall, stately man, of soldier-like bearing. He had an open and pleasant countenance, and might have been considered handsome in spite of the total baldness of the crown of his head. Intercourse with society in many countries had given him courteous and easy manners. He was the most cultured member of his family, and his temperament caused him to prefer an active life.

CHAPTER III.

THE QUEEN'S MOTHER.

VICTORIA MARIA LOUISA was the only daughter of Francis, Duke of Saxe-Coburg, and was born in 1786. Of her three brothers, the eldest was Ernest, Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, and father of Albert the Prince Consort; the youngest was Leopold, who became King of the Belgians in 1831.

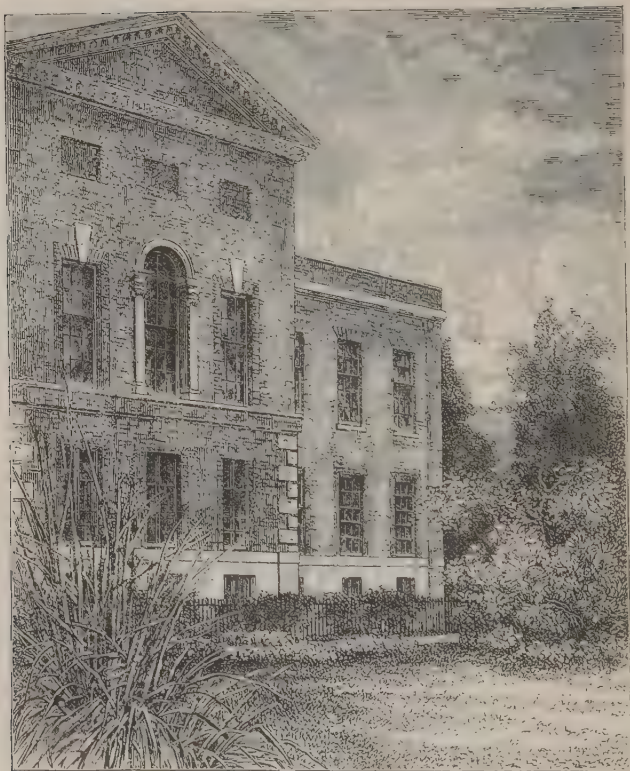
In 1803, when she was in her eighteenth year, she married Charles, Prince of Leiningen. The prince died in 1814, leaving her with two children;—Charles, who succeeded his father in due course as Prince of Leiningen, and who died in 1859; and Feodore, who became Princess of Hohenlohe-Langenburg, and died in 1872.

At the time of her marriage with the Duke of Kent, in 1818, the princess was aged thirty-two. Though a widow, she was still a young and handsome

woman. Baron Stockmar, the private secretary to Prince Leopold, thus described her a short time after she became Duchess of Kent: "She was of middle height, rather large, but with a good figure, with fine brown eyes and hair, fresh and youthful, naturally cheerful and friendly; altogether most charming and attractive. She was fond of dress, and she dressed well and in good taste. Nature had endowed her with warm feelings, and she was naturally truthful, affectionate, and unselfish, full of sympathy, and generous."

The Duke and Duchess of Kent went to reside at the Castle of Amorbach in Bavaria, which belonged to the Prince of Leiningen. This was necessary, because the duchess was the guardian of her two children, and the regent of her son's principality. From the time of his marriage, the duke had a confident belief that the British Crown was destined to come into his family. Now that a child was about to be born to him, his confidence increased. On that account he was most anxious to return to England with his wife, so that his heir might be "British born."

There was one difficulty in the way of this design being carried out—namely, lack of money. In his extremity the duke applied to his brother the Prince-



KENSINGTON PALACE—THE HOUSE IN WHICH THE QUEEN WAS BORN.

Regent; but from him he could get no help. He appealed to his other brothers with no better result. At length Prince Leopold and other friends came to

his aid, and the journey was safely and comfortably effected.

Apartments in Kensington Palace were assigned to the duke and duchess. That quaint old royal abode is pleasantly situated to the west of Kensington Gardens. William the Third having taken a fancy to the house, bought it from the Earl of Nottingham, and had it enlarged from the designs of Sir Christopher Wren. It was a favourite residence of William and of subsequent sovereigns. There he died, as his wife Queen Mary had done before him. There also died Queen Anne and George II. Being no longer deemed a fitting residence for the reigning sovereign, it was set apart for the use of the junior members of the royal family. The duke's younger brother Augustus, Duke of Sussex, who had violated the Royal Marriage Act by marrying a subject (the lady Augusta Murray), occupied the oldest part of the palace. The Duke of Kent had assigned to him one of the wings in that part of the house which Sir Christopher Wren built for Dutch William : (in the woodcut, the lower part, on the right hand.)

It may safely be inferred, from what has been said, that this royal couple did not begin life in England with very hopeful prospects. They lived in a palace, no doubt ; but the reason of that was that they could

not afford to have a house of their own. It is quite certain that they were not reclining in the lap of luxury. The duke had had difficulty enough in raising money to bring his wife to England. He found living in England more costly than in Germany, though of necessity their establishment was on the most modest scale. The whole circumstances were rich in lessons of thrift and contentment, of which the duchess made good use in after years. The wife, not less than the husband, was sustained by hope, and by a kind of prophetic instinct which assured her that there was a great future in store for her child.

CHAPTER IV.

THE QUEEN'S BIRTH AND BAPTISM.

THE Duke and Duchess of Kent were installed at Kensington Palace in the spring of 1819. On the 24th of May, the duchess gave birth to a daughter, who was christened "Alexandrina Victoria"—the former name being given in honour of the Czar Alexander, and the latter after her mother. The baptismal ceremony was performed at Kensington when the little princess was four weeks old. The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London officiated, and the golden font was brought from the Tower of London for the occasion. The sponsors were, the Prince-Regent, who was present in person; and the Czar, who was represented by Prince Frederick, Duke of York. The godmothers of the infant princess were, her maternal grandmother, the Duchess-Dowager of Coburg, represented by the Duchess of Gloucester; and the Queen of Württemberg (Prin-

cess-Royal of England), represented by the Princess Augusta.

The pomp and circumstance that accompanied the ceremony were significant, because they practically recognized the place which the infant princess held as heir-apparent to the throne. Not the least interested spectator of the ceremony was Prince Leopold, the duchess's favourite brother. He then looked for the first time on the features of his niece, who was to take the place of his lamented wife (the Princess Charlotte) in the affections and the hopes of the British people. He must have regarded the proceedings with mingled feelings of pleasure and pain; but if anything could sweeten the bitterness of the hour to him, surely he must have found comfort in the fact that she who had succeeded to the place of his wife was his sister's child. Both to sister and to child, he was through life a never-failing friend.

The princess, it seems, ran some risk of being called by the clumsy and quite unhistorical name of Georgiana. The Duke of Kent had at once made up his mind that her first name should be that of his friend the Czar in its feminine form; but he wished at the same time to compliment his brother the Prince-Regent by calling her after him. Fortunately, the Prince-Regent declined to allow his name to

come in the second place, and at the last moment the duchess's name was substituted for it. The pet name of the princess during her earlier years was 'Drina; but as she grew up she preferred to be called by the more stately and now famous name of Victoria.

The birth of the princess changed completely the place which her parents held in the popular estimation. From being a royal duke and duchess in reduced circumstances, with little to commend them to public favour, they became the father and mother of the heir-apparent to the throne, charged with the sacred duty of maintaining and educating her, and of fitting her for the exalted position which she was destined to hold. No one realized the changed position more clearly than the Duke of Kent. To his wife he used to say, with pardonable pride, "Take care of the child: she will one day be Queen of England." But this change was not regarded with satisfaction by other branches of the royal family. Writing to an intimate friend some months afterwards, the Duke of Kent said that his little girl "is, I am delighted to say, strong and healthy; too healthy, I fear, in the opinion of some members of my family, by whom she is regarded as an intruder." The duke adds, "How largely she contributes to my happiness at this moment, it is needless for me to say."

CHAPTER V.

DEATH OF THE QUEEN'S FATHER.

THE Duke of Kent resolved to spend the winter of 1819 with his wife and child in the south of England, in order, as he said, "to cheat the winter." In December he took the duchess and her infant daughter to Woolbrook Cottage, near Sidmouth, in Devonshire. There they spent many happy days; and he was looking forward with pleasure to returning to Bavaria in spring, where his wife intended to resume her duties as regent, and as guardian of her children.

Man, however, proposes, and God disposes. In the middle of January, the Duke of Kent caught a cold, which he treated lightly. It turned out to be a serious matter. Inflammation of the lungs set in, and the duchess was in despair. All that medical skill and assiduous nursing could do for the patient was done. The duchess watched by her husband's sick-

bed for five days and nights successively. But all was in vain. On Saturday the 22nd of January the last hope was abandoned, and the duke was told that his end was near. He received the intimation calmly, dictated and signed his will, and died next morning—Sunday the 23rd.

The widow's position was a very trying one. She was a stranger in a strange land, to which nevertheless she was united by a powerful tie. She had not resided long enough in England to form friendships; she could not even speak the language of the country. By her husband's family she and her child were regarded with no great favour. While the duke lived, she could afford to brave their indifference or their jealousy; but now that she was left alone in the world her future seemed very dark.

Her difficulties were increased by the condition in which her husband's affairs were left. By his will, he had bequeathed "all my real and personal estates for the entire use of my beloved wife and dear child." He must have used these words in the belief that the Government would recognize his just claims, for in fact he had nothing to bequeath excepting a heavy burden of debt. It ought to be mentioned here that the Duke of Kent's debts were due to a different cause from those of some of his royal brothers. They were

not the result either of reckless extravagance or of vicious modes of life. They arose, as was afterwards acknowledged in Parliament, from the inadequacy of his means, and from the fact that he had not received a separate income till he was far advanced in life.

In the midst of her troubles and anxieties, the duchess received timely and welcome help from her brother, Prince Leopold. By his efforts on her behalf she was able to return to Kensington Palace with her child, and to establish herself there with some measure of comfort. She gave up to her husband's creditors all his property. All that remained to her was her jointure of £6,000 a-year. This sum Prince Leopold supplemented with £3,000 a-year from his wife's jointure, paid by this country since his marriage—an allowance which he handsomely continued until Parliament saw fit to place the Duchess of Kent in a more becoming position.

The duchess did not hesitate as to the course which she, personally, should follow. It had been her intention, if her husband had lived, to return to Bavaria, to resume the guardianship of her own children. The duke's death led her to change her plans. In his will he had appointed her "sole guardian of our dear child, the Princess Alexandrina Victoria, to all intents and for all purposes whatever." That was a sacred

trust, which she could not decline. She acted with characteristic decision. At once she gave up the regency of Leiningen, and resolved to make England her home, and to devote her life to the one object of preparing her little daughter for the high position which she felt sure that she was destined to fill. For the energy, the wisdom, and the self-sacrifice with which the Duchess of Kent applied herself to these duties, the British nation owes her memory the deepest gratitude.

The Duke of Kent died on January 23rd. On the 29th of the same month his poor old father, George the Third, also died. He had been dead to the world for years, and his actual demise was a relief rather than a calamity. "Hush! strife and quarrel, over the solemn grave! Sound, trumpets, a mournful march. Fall, dark curtain, upon his pageant, his pride, his grief, his awful tragedy!"*

The Prince-Regent then ascended the throne as George the Fourth; but it was a change of title rather than of office. He had been actual king for nine years already.

* Thackeray, "The Four Georges."

CHAPTER VI.

THE QUEEN'S CHILDHOOD.

OLD Kensington Palace was the home of the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria during the next eighteen years. A more pleasant abode for the princess, in the neighbourhood of her future capital, and in the eye of her future subjects, it would have been difficult to find. The park itself, with its grassy glades, its noble trees, and its shady walks, was a charming resort always within reach. Though a public park, it was much more secluded then than it is now, when it is surrounded by a dense population. To the fact of her residing there we are indebted for most of the notices that have appeared of the early years of the Princess Victoria.

She made her first public appearance at a very tender age. When the deputation of the House of Commons waited on the Duchess of Kent to offer the condolence of Parliament on the death of her hus-

band, she received them with her infant in her arms. The act was natural, but it was also significant. She accepted their sympathy not merely as the widow of the late duke, but also as the mother of their future queen. The incident recalls the scene in which Edward the First presented to the wondering Welsh chiefs his infant son as Prince of Wales.

One of the earliest glimpses of the young princess is afforded in the correspondence of William Wilberforce, the famous philanthropist. He had been a friend of the Duke of Kent, who had entered warmly into his scheme for the abolition of slavery. Having heard that Wilberforce was living in the neighbourhood, the duchess invited him to call and see her daughter, then little more than a year old. He thus described the interview in a letter to Hannah More :—

“She received me with her fine animated child on the floor by her side with its playthings, of which I soon became one. She was very civil; but as she did not sit down, I did not think it right to stop above a quarter of an hour; and there being but a female attendant and a footman present, I could not well get up any topic so as to carry on a continuous discourse. She apologized for not speaking English well enough to talk it, and intimated a hope that she

might talk it better and longer with me at some future time. She spoke of her situation, and her manner was quite delightful."

There is more in this picture of the mother than of the child; but it is of the mother beside the child, who was her constant companion. The duchess was not content to perform her duties through others. She herself nursed and tended and amused and trained her daughter throughout her childhood. The princess had of course her nurse (Mrs. Brook), and afterwards her governess (Baroness Lehzen), to both of whom she was much attached; but the duchess always maintained her direct influence over the child's mind and heart. By-and-by the princess had as her companion her half-sister, the Princess Feodore, who was nine years her senior, and of whom she grew very fond. Often were the two girls seen walking in the park hand in hand along with their mother, or followed by a single attendant. Sometimes Victoria rode on a little donkey, made gay with blue ribbons, and led by an old soldier who had been a servant of her father's.

Once, when she was in her fourth year, the princess had a narrow escape from a serious accident. The pony-carriage in which she was driving was upset. It was in the act of falling on her, when a soldier who was near darted forward, and catching her frock

swung her into his arms. The soldier (John Maloney by name) was rewarded, both at the time and afterwards; but not till many years later did he know that it was the future Queen of England whose life he had probably saved.

The princess paid her first visit to the palace of Claremont in Surrey—then the residence of her Uncle Leopold—when she was about five years of age. She greatly enjoyed that and her subsequent visits to Claremont, which she came to regard as her second home, so completely had her uncle come to take the place of father in her eyes. Many years afterwards, when she herself had a little Victoria running by her side, she wrote thus to her uncle about Claremont:—

“This place has a peculiar charm for us both; and to me it brings back recollections of the happiest days of my otherwise dull childhood, when I experienced such kindness from you, dearest uncle—kindness which has ever since continued. Victoria plays with my old bricks; and I see her running and jumping in the flower-garden as old (though I feel still little) Victoria of former days used to do.”

Every year the Duchess of Kent took the princess somewhere for a holiday—sometimes to Claremont, sometimes to Ramsgate, sometimes to the country mansion of some noble friend. At Ramsgate, which

was frequently visited, the princess received from Mr. Moses Montefiore a golden key which admitted her at any time to his beautiful gardens and grounds there. When she came to the throne, Mr. Montefiore was one of the sheriffs of London on whom it was her duty and her pleasure to confer knighthood. He was the first Jew that received that honour in England.

An amusing incident occurred during a visit paid about this time to Earl Fitzwilliam at Wentworth House. The princess was very fond of running about alone among the shrubberies and in the garden. While she was thus engaged one morning after rain had fallen, the old gardener saw her about to descend a sloping bank of turf between one terrace and another, and called out, "Take care, miss; it's *slape*," using the Yorkshire word for slippery.—"What's *slape*?" asked the princess advancing. As she did so, her feet flew from her, and she rolled down the bank.—"*That's* *slape*," said the gardener, as he ran forward and lifted her up.

We get another glimpse of the young princess in the Autobiography of Lord Albemarle. "One of my occupations of a morning," he writes, "while waiting for the Duke of Sussex, was to watch from the windows the movements of a bright, pretty little girl, seven years of age. She was in the habit of watering

the plants immediately under the window. It was amusing to see how impartially she divided the contents of the watering-pot between the flowers and her own little feet. She was dressed in a large straw hat, and a suit of white cotton; a coloured *fichu* round the neck was the only ornament she wore."

Charles Knight, in his *Passages in a Working Life*, tells us of the delight with which, in early summer, he used to walk in Kensington Gardens. "In such a season," he says, "when the sun was scarcely high enough to have dried up the dews of Kensington's green alleys, as I passed along the broad arched walk of the gardens, I saw a group on the lawn before the palace which, to my mind, was a vision of exquisite loveliness. The Duchess of Kent and her daughter, whose years then numbered nine, are breakfasting in the open air, a single page attending upon them at a respectful distance; the matron looking on with eyes of love, whilst the fair, soft English face is bright with smiles."

Leigh Hunt, too, has a pleasant reminiscence of the princess in his *Old Court Suburb*. The first time he ever saw her, she was "coming up a cross-path with a girl about her own age by her side, whose hand she was holding as if she loved her.....A magnificent footman in scarlet came behind her, with the splen-

didest pair of calves in white stockings which we ever saw. He looked like a gigantic fairy, personating somehow for his little lady's sake the grandest kind of footman he could think of."

The best description of the princess's personal appearance at this time is that of Mrs. Oliphant. "I do not suppose," she says, with outspoken frankness, which is unhappily rare, "that the Queen was ever beautiful;.....but yet her face was one which you would have remarked anywhere had she been only *Miss Victoria*. She had not much colour in her youth; and it was a time of simplicity, as you will see by the portrait, when girls wore their pretty hair in a natural way.....All this increased the sentiment of youth, and naturalness, and innocence in the young Queen; but I remember very distinctly, when I saw her first, being myself very young, how the calm full look of her eyes impressed and affected me. Those eyes were very blue, serene, still, looking at you with a tranquil breadth of expression which somehow conveyed to your mind a feeling of unquestioned power and greatness quite poetical in its serious simplicity. I do not suppose she was at all aware of this, for the Queen does not take credit for being so calmly royal; but this is how she looked to a fanciful girl, seeing her Majesty for the first time."

Sir Walter Scott has left in his diary a brief record of an interview with the princess, whom he recognized as heir-presumptive, though he did not live to hail her as Queen. Under date, May 19th, 1828, the princess then completing her ninth year, he wrote : —“Dined with the Duchess of Kent. I was very kindly received by Prince Leopold, and presented to the little Victoria—the heir-apparent of the crown, as things now stand. The little lady is educated with much care, and watched so closely that no busy maid has a moment to whisper, ‘You are the heir of England.’ I suspect, if we could dissect the little heart, we should find that some pigeon or other bird of the air had carried the matter.”

About this time, the princess lost the companionship of her half-sister, the Princess Feodore, to whom she had become very much attached. She was married in 1828 to the Prince of Hohenlohe-Langenburg. The ceremony took place in Kensington Palace, and the position the princess had acquired in England is indicated by the fact that the Duke of Clarence gave away the bride, and that most of the other members of the royal family were present.

CHAPTER VII.

THE QUEEN'S GIRLHOOD.

GEORGE the Fourth died in 1830, and was succeeded by his brother the Duke of Clarence, who ascended the throne as William the Fourth. To the Princess Victoria the change was important. Of her uncle King George, she had seen little, partly because of her youth, partly because her mother prudently kept her at a distance from a Court which was not remarkable for high tone or for pure influences. The death of George, however, brought the princess one degree nearer to the throne, and it became almost necessary that her public appearances should be more frequent. Even then, however, the Duchess of Kent made her daughter's visits to the Court as few as possible—a circumstance on which King William remarked with some bitterness.

One of King William's earliest acts was to send a message to Parliament recommending an increased

allowance to the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria. The additional sum, voted unanimously by the House of Commons, was £10,000 a-year, which with the £6,000 allowed to the duchess, and another £6,000 granted her in 1825 for the education of the princess, made her whole income £22,000 a-year. At the same time, Prince Leopold discontinued the allowance of £3,000 a-year which he had granted to his sister since she became a widow. He was now King of the Belgians, and had thoughts of taking a second wife. In these circumstances he deemed it right to renounce his late wife's jointure, and to stop his sister's allowance which he had paid out of it.

However the princess may have regarded King William, towards her Aunt Adelaide—the “Good Queen Adelaide”—her feelings were those of warm affection and regard. The queen also loved her niece and took the deepest interest in her, having come to regard her, however reluctantly, as the next heir to the throne. “My children are dead,” she wrote with simple pathos to the Duchess of Kent; “but yours lives, and she is mine also.”

It now became desirable to make the princess aware of her precise position. She could scarcely be ignorant of the fact that she was a royal princess, and that there was a possibility of her one day wearing the

crown ; but she did not know how near to certainty the prospect had become till she had reached her twelfth year. This is proved by a letter written to her Majesty in 1867 by the Baroness Lehzen, her former governess and companion. It was to the following effect :—

“I ask your Majesty’s leave to cite some remarkable words of your Majesty when only twelve years old, while the Regency Bill was in progress. I then said to the Duchess of Kent that now, for the first time, your Majesty ought to know your place in the succession. Her royal highness agreed with me, and I put the genealogical table into the historical book. When Mr. Davys [the princess’s tutor] was gone, the Princess Victoria opened, as usual, the book again, and seeing the additional paper said, ‘I never saw that before.’

“‘It was not thought necessary you should, princess,’ I answered.

“‘I see I am nearer the throne than I thought.’

“‘So it is, madam,’ I said.

“After some moments the princess resumed, ‘Now, many a child would boast, but they don’t know the difficulty. There is much splendour, but there is more responsibility.’

“The princess having lifted up the forefinger of

her right hand while she spoke, gave me that little hand, saying—

“ ‘I will be good. I understand now why you urged me so much to learn, even Latin. My aunts Augusta and Mary never did; but you told me Latin is the foundation of English grammar, and of all the elegant expressions, and I learned it, as you wished it, but I understand all better now:’ and the princess gave me her hand, repeating—

“ ‘I will be good.’

“I then said, ‘But your Aunt Adelaide is still young, and may have children; and of course they would ascend the throne after their father, William the Fourth, and not you, princess.’

“The princess answered—

“ ‘And if it were so, I should never feel disappointed; for I know by the love Aunt Adelaide bears me how fond she is of children.’ ”

The Regency Bill referred to in this letter proposed that, in the event of the king's death before the Princess Victoria came of age, the Duchess of Kent should be appointed sole regent until her daughter was old enough to rule in her own person. This extraordinary mark of confidence was highly prized by the duchess. It was a very gratifying acknowledgment of the fidelity with which she had

discharged her duties, and a proof of the public affection and regard which she had thereby won.

About this time the princess was present at a drawing-room held by Queen Adelaide, and took precedence of her mother, standing next to the Queen, on her left hand, as the acknowledged heiress to the crown. There was no longer any need for the restraint which the duchess had put on herself with reference to her daughter's future. According to Caroline Fox, the mother and the daughter talked freely on the subject. One of the recorded sayings of the former to the latter was: "I am anxious to bring you up as a good woman, and then you will be a good queen also." As that was the key to the mother's system of training, its realization is the key to the daughter's greatness. She is a good Queen, because she is a good woman.

In the country, also, the princess's succession was now regarded as a matter of certainty, and wherever she went with her mother, loyal addresses of congratulation were presented to them. Such demonstrations were not pleasing to the old king, who may have been a little jealous of his niece's growing popularity, and who joked rather bitterly about her "royal progresses." These journeys, however, were undertaken from a better motive than that of display, or of hunt-

ing for popularity. Their purpose was educational in the best sense, for they were designed to make the princess acquainted with places of historical interest or of industrial importance in the country which she was one day to govern.

At this time, the Duchess of Northumberland, an English lady of great accomplishments and remarkable force of character, became official governess to the young princess, on whose mind and heart she exercised a most wholesome influence. The Baroness Lehzen still continued to be her faithful and trusted companion, and indeed remained at the Court till 1842, when she returned to Germany. Dr. Davys was retained as tutor, but as a churchman of rank was thought to be necessary for the office, he was made Dean of Chester.

As the princess advanced in years, her formal education was carefully attended to under her mother's eye. She was instructed in the history of the British Constitution and in modern languages; in music and in drawing, in both of which she attained great proficiency; and in the natural sciences, especially in botany. She also enjoyed exercise on horseback, and became an accomplished rider; and she acquired health and confidence by means of this and other out-door exercises. That her mental progress

was also satisfactory, may be inferred from the testimony of Caroline Fox, who, describing her at this time, says: "She is a good linguist, an acute foreign politician, and possesses very sound common sense."

The Princess Victoria was confirmed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, in August 1835, in the presence of King William, Queen Adelaide, and the Duchess of Kent. The duchess with her daughter spent the winter of that year at St. Leonards, where the princess again narrowly escaped a serious carriage accident. On the road between St. Leonards and Hastings, the horses of the carriage in which she and her mother drove took fright and ran off. A gentleman (who was afterwards made a baronet) gallantly rushed to the rescue, seized the heads of the horses, and stopped them.

The quiet little family party at Kensington was enlivened in 1836 by a visit from the two German cousins of the princess—Prince Ernest of Saxe-Coburg and his younger brother Prince Albert. They were the sons of the Duchess of Kent's brother Ernest. The former succeeded to the principality on the death of his father. The latter became the husband of Queen Victoria. Prince Albert was born three months after the princess, and as their mothers had been attended successively by the same nurse (Madame Sie-

bold), there was much talk of the English "May-flower" in the German nursery; and the two cousins were in a sense mated in their cradles.

Their uncle, King Leopold, was very anxious that the cousins should be united. He consulted on the subject Baron von Stockmar, his life-long friend and sagacious adviser. Stockmar advised that the two young persons ought to be allowed to meet and to see something of each other, so that the union might come about naturally, and as the result of mutual affection. Hence the visit of the German cousins. It seemed to promise well for the designs of their well-wishers. "Dear aunt is very kind to us," wrote the prince from Kensington, "and does everything she can to please us; and our cousin also is very amiable." That is his earliest allusion to his future wife. Balls and other gaieties amused the young men during their visit to England. They also visited many of the sights of London, and one of the scenes that impressed them most deeply was a meeting of thousands of children from the London Charity Schools in St. Paul's Cathedral.

The Princess Victoria and Prince Albert continued to correspond as cousins after the prince's return to Germany; and expressions in his letters to his father indicate very plainly the direction in which his own high hopes lay. After mentioning one letter, he says:

"The day before yesterday, I received a second and still kinder letter from my cousin, in which she thanks me for my good wishes on her birthday. You may easily imagine that both these letters gave me the greatest pleasure."

The princess was not indifferent to a subject on which so much of her future happiness and usefulness depended. On a hint from her good Uncle Leopold of what he hoped for, she wrote him: "I have only now, my dearest uncle, to ask you to take care of the health of one now so dear to me, and to take him under your special protection. I hope and trust that all will go on prosperously and well on this subject, now of so much importance to me."

The princess attained her majority on the 24th of May 1837. She then completed her eighteenth year, the period fixed by law in the case of royal heirs. There was great rejoicing at Kensington, at St. James's Palace, and indeed all over the country. King William, then on his death-bed, entered heartily into the congratulations, and sent his niece as a present a magnificent pianoforte. One wish of the old king's heart had been realized: the heir to the throne had attained her majority before his death, so that there would be no need for a regency.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE QUEEN'S ACCESSION.

ABOUT five o'clock on the morning of the 20th of June 1837, a coach-and-four might have been seen driving in hot haste up the central avenue leading to Kensington Palace. It was a bright morning, fresh and clear, and the air was filled with the incense of the new day. Two gentlemen got out of the coach when it reached the palace gate. One of them rang the bell, but no one came. The other beat the door with his staff, but there was no answer from within. After a great deal of knocking and shouting, the porter was at last aroused, and the gate was cautiously opened. When the porter saw who the visitors were, he admitted them at once; for the one was the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the other was the Lord Chamberlain (the Marquis of Conyngham). They said that they wished to see the Princess Victoria.

The porter, only half awake, was puzzled what to do, and the gentlemen were left standing in the courtyard until he had aroused some of the other servants. They were then shown into one of the lower rooms; but they were left there so long that they thought they had been forgotten. They rang the bell, and asked to see the maid of the Princess Victoria. After another long delay, the maid came. She told the gentlemen that they must wait awhile;—that the princess was in such a sweet sleep that she durst not disturb her. Then the Lord Chamberlain said, “We are come on business of State with Queen Victoria, and even sleep must give way to that.” Then the maid understood it all. King William had died during the night, and her young mistress was Queen of England.

She no longer delayed to call her; and in a few minutes the princess came into the room, attired in a loose white dressing-gown and a shawl, her head uncovered and her hair falling on her shoulders. When she was told that her good uncle was dead, and that she was now Queen, her eyes filled with tears. The first request she made was, “My Lord Archbishop, pray for me!” They knelt down together, and the first act of her reign was to commit herself to God.

The princess was quite calm and dignified, and at

once spoke of the business which had to be done. Viscount Melbourne, the Prime Minister, having been sent for, a meeting of Privy Council was called for eleven o'clock, that she might take the usual oaths, and receive those of the ministers and other councillors.

After these arrangements were made, the young Queen had an affectionate talk with her mother. She then sat down calmly and wrote a kind letter of sympathy to her aunt Queen Adelaide. She offered words of comfort to the bereaved widow, and she begged her to remain at Windsor Castle as long as it suited her to do so. This letter she addressed to "Her Majesty the Queen, Windsor Castle." It was suggested to her that she herself was now "the Queen," and that the letter ought to have been addressed to "the Queen-Dowager."—"True," she replied; "but it is not for me to be the first to remind her of her changed position."

King William died at Windsor at twenty minutes past two in the morning. The Princess Victoria received the news of the event between five and six, and at eleven o'clock, as had been arranged, the Council met at Kensington Palace. The young Queen presided at the Council; and though only eighteen years of age, and entirely unused to the transaction of business of State, she performed her duties with much grace and firmness, and with marvellous self-

possession. One who was present said : " She presided with as much ease as if she had done nothing else all her life." Of her manner Lord Campbell wrote : " Nothing could be more exquisitely proper : she looked modest, sorrowful, dejected, diffident ; but at the same time she was quite cool and collected, and composed and firm. Her childish appearance was gone. She was an intelligent and graceful young woman, capable of thinking and acting for herself."

The best and fullest account of this momentous meeting is that given in the entertaining *Journals* of Mr. Charles Greville, who was Clerk of the Privy Council at the time. He says :—

" Never was there anything like the first impression she produced, or the chorus of praise and admiration which was raised about her manner and behaviour ; and certainly not without justice. It was very extraordinary, and something far beyond what was looked for. Her extreme youth and inexperience, and the ignorance of the world concerning her, naturally excited intense curiosity to see how she would act on this trying occasion ; and there was a considerable assemblage at the palace, notwithstanding the short notice that was given. The first thing to be done was to teach her her lesson ; which for this purpose Melbourne had himself to learn. I gave him the Council papers,

and explained all that was to be done; and he went and explained all this to her. He asked her if she would enter the room accompanied by the great officers of State, but she said she would come in alone."

The Proclamation was then prepared and signed by all the members of the Privy Council who were present. Then, Mr. Greville continues:—

"The doors were thrown open, and the Queen entered, accompanied by her two uncles, who had advanced to meet her. She bowed to the lords, and took her seat, and then read her speech in a clear, distinct, and audible voice, and without any appearance of fear or embarrassment:—

"‘The severe and afflicting loss which the nation has sustained by the death of his Majesty, my beloved uncle, has devolved upon me the duty of administering the government of this Empire. This awful responsibility is imposed upon me so suddenly, and at so early a period of my life, that I should feel myself utterly oppressed by the burden, were I not sustained by the hope that Divine Providence, which has called me to this work, will give me strength for the performance of it; and that I shall find in the purity of my intentions, and in my zeal for the public welfare, that support and those resources which usually belong to a more mature age and to

long experience. I place my firm reliance on the wisdom of Providence, and upon the loyalty and affection of my people. I esteem it, also, a peculiar advantage that I succeed to a sovereign whose constant regard for the rights and liberties of his subjects, and whose desire to promote the amelioration of the laws and institutions of this country, have rendered his name the object of general attachment and veneration. Educated in England, under the tender and enlightened care of a most affectionate mother, I have learned from my infancy to respect and love the Constitution of my native country. It will be my unceasing study to maintain the Reformed religion, as by law established; securing, at the same time, to all the full enjoyment of religious liberty. And I shall steadily protect the rights and promote to the utmost of my power the happiness and welfare of all classes of my subjects.'.....

"After she had read her speech, and taken and signed the oath for the security of the Church of Scotland, administered by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the privy councillors were sworn; the two royal dukes first, by themselves. And as these old men, her uncles, knelt before her, swearing allegiance and kissing her hand, I saw her blush up to the eyes, as if she felt the contrast between their civil

and their natural relations; and this was the only sign of emotion that she evinced. Her manner to them was very graceful and engaging: she kissed them both, and rose from her chair and moved towards the Duke of Sussex, who was farthest from her, and too infirm to reach her. She seemed rather bewildered at the multitude of men who were sworn, and who came one after the other to kiss her hand; but she did not speak to anybody, nor did she make the slightest difference in her manner, or show any in her countenance, to any individual of any rank, station, or party."

Immediately after the meeting of Privy Counsellors, the Cabinet Ministers, headed by Lord Melbourne, gave up to the Queen their seals of office. These she at once graciously returned to them; and they kissed hands on their re-appointment.

Next day—June 21st—the proclamation took place in front of St. James's Palace. That palace stands at the west end of Pall Mall, opposite the foot of St. James's Street. The front of the building abuts on the street, while the back looks toward St. James's Park. It is a dingy, irregular, red-brick building, but rather picturesque. For a long time, indeed until Buckingham Palace was built, it was the only royal residence in London; and hence the official

designation of the English Court came to be "The Court of St. James's." There Mary Tudor died and Charles the Second was born ; and there the first two Georges kept their dull and formal Court.



ST. JAMES'S PALACE.

The Queen, with an escort of the Guards, drove from Kensington to St. James's through vast crowds eager to see their new sovereign. The ceremony is performed by the Garter-king-at-arms with his attendant heralds and pursuivants, sergeants-at-arms, and trum-

peters, all clad in the quaint costumes of medieval times. They occupy the quadrangle between St. James's and Marlborough House; while it is customary for the sovereign who is being proclaimed to look down on the scene from the open window of the presence chamber, where he or she stands surrounded by the great officers of State. On this occasion not only the quadrangle but every avenue leading to it, and every window within reach of it, was crowded with enthusiastic spectators.

The appearance of the Queen at the window of the presence chamber was the signal for loud cheering. She was dressed in deep mourning, and looked very pale and anxious. Beside her stood Lord Melbourne, the Prime Minister, and Lord Lansdowne, the Lord President of the Council; while the Duchess of Kent stood close by her daughter. The Garter-king-at-arms then read the Proclamation in a loud and clear voice. It was the official intimation of the death of King William, of the vacant throne, and of the accession of "the high and mighty Princess Alexandrina Victoria," who is "become our only lawful and rightful liege lady, Victoria, by the grace of God, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, defender of the faith." When the closing words, "God save the Queen," were uttered, the band

played the National Anthem, the park guns fired a royal salute, and cheer on cheer arose from the assembled multitudes.

The effect on "the observed of all observers" in this scene was charming in its naturalness. It showed that in her case the Queen had not extinguished the woman. Overcome with the conflict of emotions suggested by the scene, she turned to her mother and wept. The incident suggested to Elizabeth Barrett Browning these touching verses:—

"She saw no purples shine, ↓
 For tears had dimmed her eyes:
 She only knew, her childhood's flowers
 Were happier pageantries!
 And while the heralds played their part,
 Those million shouts to drown—
 'God save the Queen!' from hill to mart—
 She heard, through all, her beating heart,
 And turned, and wept—
 She wept to wear a crown.
 * * * *
 "God bless thee, weeping Queen,
 With blessing more divine!
 And fill with happier love than earth's
 That tender heart of thine!
 That when the thrones of earth shall be
 As low as graves brought down,
 A pierc'd hand may give to thee
 The crown, which angels shout to see!
 Thou wilt not weep
 To wear *that* heavenly crown."

In the midst of these rejoicings the Queen was not forgetful of her widowed aunt at Windsor. She

went to pay her a visit of sympathy ; and on this occasion she surprised Lord Melbourne by her forethought, and by her delicate regard for the feelings of others. Knowing that the flag on the great tower of the castle would be hanging half-mast high, she gave orders that it should *not* be raised in her honour. This tender thoughtfulness was worthy of one whose star was rising ; but quite as striking was the revelation it made of that remarkable faculty of detail which has been a characteristic of her Majesty throughout her life.

Amid the many messages of congratulation which the Queen received on her accession, there was one of a private nature which, we may be sure, interested her not less than the public demonstrations and official addresses. That was a letter from her cousin Prince Albert, who was then completing his education at Bonn. This manly and thoughtful letter was, we are told, the first he had attempted to write in English. It ran as follows :—

“ BONN, 26th June 1837.

“ MY DEAREST COUSIN,—I must write you a few lines to present you my sincerest felicitations on that great change which has taken place in your life.

“ Now you are Queen of the mightiest land of Europe,—in your hand lies the happiness of millions.

May Heaven assist you and strengthen you with its strength in that high but difficult task.

"I hope that your reign may be long, happy, and glorious; and that your efforts may be rewarded by the thankfulness and love of your subjects.

"May I pray you to think likewise sometimes of your cousins in Bonn, and to continue to them that kindness you have favoured them with till now? Be assured that our minds are always with you.

"I will not be indiscreet and abuse your time. Believe me always, your Majesty's most obedient and faithful servant,

"ALBERT."

But the "cousins in Bonn" had been attracting too much public notice. Rumours of a royal marriage had been freely circulated, and Uncle Leopold feared that a premature step might spoil all. In order "to draw attention from the young princes," therefore, he advised that they should travel for a few months. They accordingly started in the summer of 1837 on a tour in Switzerland and the north of Italy.

At the Queen's accession, the crown of Hanover was separated from that of Great Britain. The Salic law prevailed in Hanover, and no woman could occupy the throne, which passed, therefore, to the Queen's uncle, Ernest, Duke of Cumberland.

CHAPTER IX.

THE QUEEN'S EARLY ACTS.

QUEEN VICTORIA was fortunate in having as her chief adviser, during the opening years of her reign, so experienced and judicious a statesman as Viscount Melbourne. He remained in office during the first four years of the reign, and the young Sovereign had the great advantage of his counsel and guidance in commencing her public duties. Lord Melbourne was devoted to her service. Indeed, he was blamed for making himself rather her personal attendant and companion than her chief Minister of State. The charge was made, however, by political opponents, who were jealous of the influence he had acquired over the young Queen, and who suspected him of instilling his own opinions into her mind. These suspicions were not confined to politicians. Churchmen also were alarmed lest Melbourne's liberal ideas should affect the Church. On one occasion, in the height of summer, Dr. Hook

preached a violent sermon before her Majesty, in which he hinted that the Church was more stable even than the Throne. Lord Normanby afterwards asked the Queen if she did not find the day very hot. "Yes," she replied; "and the sermon was very hot too."

The Queen, on her part, appreciated very highly Lord Melbourne's devoted attention to her, and was grateful to him as her political tutor. She showed this in a marked way a year or two later, when a change of Ministry seemed probable. She frankly expressed to the Duke of Wellington her regret at having to part with Lord Melbourne; and when she offered the premiership to Sir Robert Peel, she said, "You must not expect me to give up the society of Lord Melbourne." She had not to make the sacrifice she dreaded; for Lord Melbourne, as we shall see by-and-by, resumed office.

Neither for Lord Melbourne nor for any other minister did the Queen give up her right of private judgment. She was always willing to listen to the advice of her counsellors, but she decided no point without having reflected on it calmly and independently.

Other advisers whose counsels were useful to her in those early days—not so much in State affairs as

in personal matters—were her good uncle King Leopold, with whom she corresponded regularly; and Baron von Stockmar, her uncle's confidential friend. Stockmar was one of the most remarkable men of his time. He possessed great knowledge of men and of public affairs, to which he added sound judgment and pleasing manners. Lord Palmerston declared Stockmar to have been the only "absolutely disinterested man" he had ever come across in his life. Such was the man whom King Leopold sent to England in 1836, to be the private adviser of his niece. He accompanied Prince Albert in his continental travels, in a similar capacity. He lived in England for some years after the Queen's marriage, and was very helpful both to the Queen and to her consort. His influence was always good.

In her household appointments the Queen acted with great judgment, and gave general satisfaction. With her entire approval, Lord Melbourne appointed as Mistress of the Robes the Duchess of Sutherland, who became one of her Majesty's most valued personal friends; and as principal Lady of the Bed-Chamber the Marchioness of Lansdowne. The Queen chose as one of her Maids of Honour Miss Davys, daughter of her old friend and tutor the Dean of Chester, who was by-and-by promoted to the Bishopric of Peter-

borough. She retained the services of the Baroness Lehzen as Secretary and Lady-in-Waiting, in which capacity she became her Majesty's most frequent companion.

Immediately after her accession, the Queen left her mother's apartments at Kensington, and removed to another part of the palace, in order that she might at once have a separate establishment. This was a wise and in fact a necessary arrangement, of which the Duchess of Kent must have admitted the propriety, even while she may have regretted the removal of her daughter from her direct control. Three weeks later, the Queen quitted for ever the "Old Court Suburb," where her childhood and her girlhood had been so happily spent, and took up her abode in the more splendid residence of Buckingham Palace.

Buckingham Palace is now the principal London residence of the Sovereign. It occupies the site of Buckingham House, which was purchased from the Duke of Buckinghamshire by George the Third. It was a dull brick house, but George liked it, and lived there rather than in St. James's. George the Fourth began the present building, which was completed under William the Fourth, and was partly remodelled on the Queen's accession, when the handsome façade fronting

St. James's Park was erected. The palace has since been enlarged by the addition of a state ball-room and other apartments, while the gardens have been very pleasantly and effectively laid out.

A law of the Constitution ordains, that the Parliament sitting at the time of a sovereign's demise shall cease to exist six months thereafter. The object of the law is to give the constituencies an opportunity of expressing approval or disapproval of the policy of the new *régime*. It is of less use now than it was in times when the policy of a government depended more on the will of the monarch than on the majority of the Parliament. The custom, during the present century at least, has been to dissolve the Parliament as soon as convenient after the accession of a new king or queen, and to delay the consideration of important questions of policy until the new Parliament shall assemble. Thus it usually happens that the dissolution of Parliament is the first public function performed by a sovereign. It was so in the case of Queen Victoria. A few days after her entry into Buckingham Palace—before she had held the throne for one month—she drove from the palace in state to dissolve the Parliament. The occasion was one of unusual interest—a new sovereign about to perform her first constitutional duty, and that sovereign a royal

maiden, the first queen-regnant since the death of Anne, more than a century before.

This was the Queen's first appearance in robes of state. An eye-witness describes her as "wearing, also for the first time, that garland-shaped diadem of brilliants which ladies used to consider so peculiarly becoming to her. She wore a white satin kirtle embroidered with gold, under a crimson velvet robe trimmed with regal gold and ermine, a stomacher ablaze with diamonds, and bracelets of flashing and sparkling diamond lights on her arms. She also had, on her left arm, the badge of the High and Ancient Order of the Garter."

It is said that, after the Queen had been robed, she turned to the Duke of Norfolk, the venerable Earl-Marshal, and said to him with an anxious expression, "But, my Lord Duke, where am I to wear the Garter?" In connection with this incident, the writer already quoted remarks: "Here was a dilemma! No one could see a way out of the terrible difficulty, until the duke, himself a knight of the grand old Order, remembered that Queen Anne had worn it, and that a portrait of that illustrious lady sovereign could be seen in the Queen Anne Room, or first reception-room, of St. James's Palace. This happily brought relief; for in it the Garter was seen worn on the left arm.

That settled the mighty question; and on the Queen's left arm it consequently appeared."

Vast crowds were assembled along the route—which was through the park and down Parliament Street—and her Majesty was greeted all the way with enthusiastic cheers. Arrived at the House of Lords, she took her seat on the throne with great dignity and self-possession. Fanny Kemble, the distinguished actress, who was a spectator of the scene, has left on record her impressions of it. The Queen, she wrote, "was not handsome, but very pretty, and the singularity of her great position lent a sentimental and poetical charm to her youthful face and figure. The serene, serious sweetness of her candid brow and clear soft eyes, gave dignity to the girlish countenance; while the want of height only added to the effect of the extreme youth of the round but slender person and gracefully-moulded hands and arms. The Queen's voice was exquisite, nor have I ever heard any spoken words more musical in their gentle distinctness than 'My Lords and Gentlemen,' which broke the breathless silence of the illustrious assembly, whose gaze was riveted on that fair flower of royalty. The enunciation was as perfect as the intonation was melodious, and I think it impossible to hear a more excellent utterance than that of the Queen's English by the English Queen."

When Queen Victoria came to the throne, it was one of the prerogatives of the Crown to exercise the power of life or death over condemned criminals. The first occasion on which she had to discharge that painful duty was that of a court-martial death-warrant being presented to her for signature by the Commander-in-chief—the great Duke of Wellington. Miss Greenwood tells us that “she shrank from the dreadful task, and, with tears in her eyes, asked, ‘Have you nothing to say on behalf of this man?’—‘Nothing; he has deserted three times,’ replied the duke.—‘Oh, your Grace, think again.’—‘Well, your Majesty, he certainly is a bad soldier; but there was somebody who spoke to his good character. He may be a good fellow in private life.’—‘Oh, thank you!’ exclaimed the Queen, as she dashed off the word ‘Pardoned’ on the awful parchment, and wrote beneath it her beautiful signature.” Out of consideration for her Majesty’s sensitive feelings, the law was afterwards changed, and death-warrants are now signed by the Home Secretary in the Queen’s name.

The Queen did not take possession of Windsor Castle as its actual mistress till the end of August. Soon afterwards she made her first appearance in presence of her troops, and held a great review in Windsor Park.

The first Windsor Castle was built by William the Conqueror. That was merely a Norman keep, and all trace of it has now disappeared, its site being occupied by the great Round Tower of Edward the



WINDSOR CASTLE.

Third, who was the real founder of the present castle. Since that time, Windsor has been the chief residence of the English sovereigns, most of whom have made alterations and additions. The latest extensive alterations were made by George the Fourth, who rebuilt

many parts of the castle, and recast and modernized the whole. One of its most interesting features is the magnificent Chapel of St. George, the official chapel of the Knights of the Order of the Garter. There several of the kings of England were buried, the latest being the Queen's grandfather, George the Third, and her uncles, George the Fourth and William the Fourth. In this chapel several members of the present royal family have been married.

The Terrace, which overlooks the Thames, and commands a splendid and extensive view, was made by the direction of Queen Elizabeth, and has been one of the chief attractions of the place ever since. The walk is shaded by fine old trees, and the slopes between it and the river are richly wooded. The apartments occupied by the Queen overlook the Terrace.

The next notable event in her Majesty's public life was her visit to the city of London, to attend a banquet given in her honour by the Lord Mayor. It took place on the 9th of November—a day since rendered memorable as that of the birth of the Prince of Wales. Nothing could have exceeded the enthusiasm of the citizens on the joyous occasion. At Temple Bar, according to ancient custom, the Queen was met by the Lord Mayor, who presented to her the keys of the city, and received them again with the assurance

that they could not be in better keeping. The banquet which followed was one of great magnificence. The Lord Mayor was made a baronet; and the honour of knighthood was conferred by the Queen on the two sheriffs, one of whom happened to be the friend of her youth, Sir Moses Montefiore—the Knight of the Golden Key, who lived to enter on his one hundred and first year, and almost to see the jubilee of the reign which he had helped to inaugurate.

The general election had taken place in August; and on November 20th the Queen opened her first Parliament in state, amid displays of loyalty even more enthusiastic than those which had attended her closing of the late Parliament, and her visit to the city. It was characteristic of her Majesty that in one of her earliest messages to the new Parliament, she requested that adequate provision should be made for her mother. Her late father's debts she took into her own hands, and she did not rest until she had paid the whole of them. The sum settled on the Duchess of Kent, whose great service to the country in the training and guardianship of her daughter was fully acknowledged, was £30,000 a-year. The annual income of the Queen, in consideration of her giving up to Parliament the whole of her hereditary revenues, was fixed at £385,000.

CHAPTER X.

THE QUEEN'S CORONATION.

THE important ceremony of the Coronation did not take place until the Queen had performed the duties of her high office for more than a year. It took place, according to the custom established for centuries, in Westminster Abbey; and the day was June 28th, 1838. The event excited the liveliest interest both in London and in the country. It was estimated that, on the occasion, the ordinary population of London was increased by half a million of persons from the provinces, including the remotest parts of the British Islands, not to mention the thousands who poured into the city from the suburbs on the morning of the famous day.

The route chosen for the procession from the palace to the Abbey was somewhat lengthened, a circuit being made by way of Piccadilly, St. James's Street, Pall Mall, Whitehall, and Parliament Street; but it was

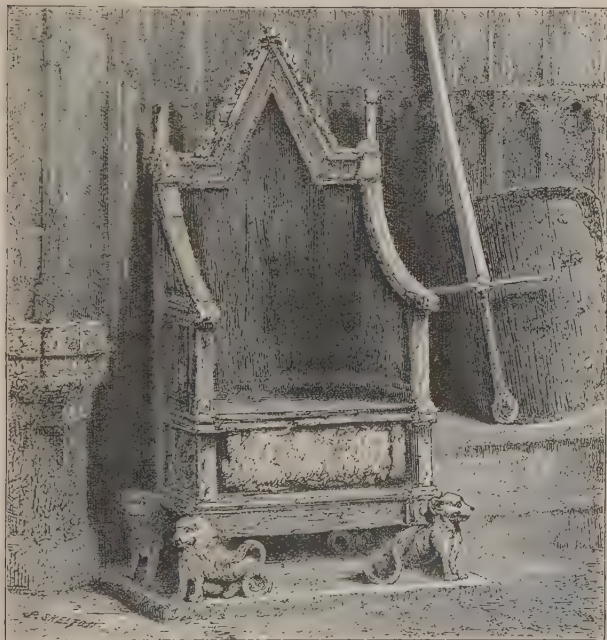
crowded at every point by a greater concourse of people than had ever been seen in London before. Platforms and galleries were erected all along the route, and were filled with gaily-dressed spectators. Every available window was occupied, and even the roofs of the houses were covered with people. It would be tedious, and it is unnecessary, to describe in detail the composition of the great procession. Everybody of any note in Great Britain was there, including all the members of the royal family, all the great statesmen, and all the great military men of the day. There were, besides, ambassadors-extraordinary from all the countries of Europe. There were two men, however, who attracted more than usual attention. These were, the Duke of Wellington,—“the Iron Duke,” “the hero of an hundred fights,”—and his great rival in renown, Marshal Soult, who was present as the representative of France, and was greeted with hearty cheers.

The Queen, attended by the Mistress of the Robes, the Master of the Horse, and the Captain-General of the Royal Archers, drove in a state coach which was drawn by eight cream-coloured horses. She left the palace gate about ten o'clock, the fact being announced by a salvo of the park guns. It was after eleven when she reached the Abbey, so slowly did the long

procession advance through the crowded streets. At the western door, the chief ministers of state—noblemen bearing the regalia (crown, sceptres, orb, etc.), and bishops carrying the communion vessels (chalice and patina), and the Bible—were in waiting to receive her Majesty, who at once proceeded to King Edward's Chapel to robe.

Westminster Abbey, as every school-boy knows, has been the place of inauguration of the Kings of England since the time of Edward the Confessor, who founded the oldest part of the present building before the Norman Conquest. It was almost completely rebuilt by Henry the Third in the thirteenth century. Henry the Seventh built, or began to build, the magnificent chapel which bears his name; and important additions were made to it in the time of the first two Georges. When the Abbey is used for the coronation ceremony, it has a very different appearance from that which it usually bears. Galleries are erected for the accommodation of members of the House of Commons, for ambassadors, for knights of the various noble Orders, for representatives of great cities, and for other privileged persons. The transepts are covered with benches for the peers and the peeresses. Under the central tower there is erected a platform covered with cloth of gold, on which stands the Chair of Homage or

throne. King Edward's Chair, on which the actual coronation is performed, stands apart, within the rails of the altar. Enclosed in it is the famous Scottish



THE CHAIR OF ST. EDWARD.
(Showing the Scottish Stone.)

Stone (called the Stone of Destiny), on which the ancient Kings of Scotland were crowned. It was carried away from Scone by Edward the First in 1296,

and has ever since formed a part of the coronation throne.

All these arrangements were followed on the present occasion ; and the interior of the Abbey presented a splendid and even dazzling appearance, with the military and diplomatic costumes, the gorgeous dresses of the peeresses, and the flash of diamonds on noble heads and fair bosoms. Long before the Queen's arrival at the Abbey, the interior was crowded in every part. As the hour of the ceremony approached, the excitement increased, and the prevailing expectancy showed itself in the waves of restlessness that swept over the vast assemblage.

The *procession* began to enter the choir shortly after twelve o'clock. First came the clergy and other officials of the Abbey, then the great officers of her Majesty's household, then the peers, followed by the archbishops, the Lord Chancellor, and the royal princesses. Next in order came a brilliant group of noble lords bearing the regalia. After these came the Queen, dressed in her royal robe of crimson velvet, bordered with ermine and gold lace, over which were the splendid collars of the Garter, the Bath, and the Thistle. On her head she wore a simple circlet of gold ; and her train was borne by eight young peeresses of ancient family. The ladies of the household, the maids of honour, and

the captains of the royal archers brought up the rear. As the procession passed slowly up the choir, the whole of the vast assemblage standing, the choristers chanted the anthem—"I was glad when they said unto me, We will go into the house of the Lord." Its soft strains had hardly died away, when the boys of Westminster school, in the exercise of their customary right, sang out in cheerful tones, *Vivat Victoria Regina!* Then her Majesty, having taken her place at a chair between the throne and the altar, knelt on a faldstool and spent a few moments in silent devotion.

The ceremonies began with the *recognition*. The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Lord Chancellor presented her Majesty to the people on the east, the north, the south, and the west successively, saying,—“Sirs, I here present you Queen Victoria, the undoubted Queen of this realm; wherefore, all ye who are come this day to do your homage, are ye willing to do the same?” Each time the question was put, there was the loud and hearty response, “God save the Queen!”

Then came the *oblation*. The Queen, attended by the Bishop of Durham and other bishops, advanced to the altar, and placed on it a pall or altar-cloth of gold. Then an ingot of gold weighing one pound was presented, and was placed by the archbishop in the oblation

basin. After that, the regalia were laid on the altar, the litany was read, and was followed by the communion service, and by a sermon preached by the Bishop of London.

The *coronation oath* was then administered to the Queen by the archbishop; after which, kneeling at the altar, she laid her right hand on the Gospels and said, "The things which I have here before promised, I will perform and keep; so help me God." She then kissed the book, signed a copy of the oath, and returned to her chair. As she knelt again at the faldstool, the choir sang *Veni Creator Spiritus!*

The *anointing* came next. The Queen passed within the altar-rail, and sat on King Edward's Chair, over which four noblemen held extended a rich cloth of gold. The archbishop, dipping his fore-finger in the holy oil, made the sign of the cross with it on the Queen's head and hands, and said: "Be thou anointed with holy oil, as kings, priests, and prophets were anointed. And as Solomon was anointed king by Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet, so be thou anointed, blessed, and consecrated Queen over this people, whom the Lord your God hath given you to rule and govern; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen." The archbishop then pronounced his blessing over her. After

the spurs had been presented by the Lord Chamberlain, the sword of state was presented by the Prime Minister, Lord Melbourne, who, however, according to custom, redeemed it with "an hundred shillings," and carried it during the rest of the ceremony.

The *investiture* was the next part of the proceedings. First her Majesty was invested with the royal robe. Then the orb was placed in her left hand, the ruby ring on her fourth finger, and the sceptre in her right hand. According to Mr. Greville, a curious and rather awkward incident occurred at this stage of the ceremony. The ruby ring had been made to fit the Queen's little finger, but the archbishop insisted on putting it on her fourth finger as the rule directs. To admit it, she had first to remove the other rings on that finger, and as it was too small it hurt her very much; and as soon as the proceedings were ended she had to bathe her finger in iced-water in order to get the ring off. The orb, too, was rather an encumbrance. "What am I to do with this?" she asked of the Reverend Lord John Thynne.—"Your Majesty is to carry it, if you please, in your left hand."—"Am I?" she said; "it is very heavy."

Then came the *coronation* proper. After a prayer by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Dean of Westminster took from the altar the crown (a small one

specially made for her Majesty) and handed it to the Archbishop, who placed it reverently on the head of the Queen, still sitting in King Edward's Chair. Then there burst from every part of the vast edifice loud shouts of "God save the Queen." The peers and peeresses put on their coronets, and the bishops their caps. Trumpets blared, drums beat, and the guns of the Tower and the Park announced to the outer world that the great ceremonial was completed.

The *enthroning* was next accomplished, by raising the Queen to the Chair of Homage facing the altar, which she had not yet occupied.

There she received the *homage* of her faithful lieges, headed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who knelt and did homage for the lords spiritual, in these words: "I do become your liege-man of life and limb and of earthly worship; and faith and truth I will bear unto you, to live or die, against all manner of folks. So help me God." Each of the archbishops and bishops then kissed the Queen's hand. Then came the Queen's uncles, the Dukes of Sussex and Cambridge, whom she received with marked kindness. Each of them, after pronouncing the above words of homage, touched the crown and kissed the Queen on the left cheek. The other peers then performed their homage, the premier peer of each rank

pronouncing the usual words and the others kissing hands.

An interesting incident is described by Harriet Martineau, who was an eye-witness of it. When Lord Rolle, who was upwards of eighty years of age, advanced to the throne between two brother peers, he stumbled and fell on the steps, where he rolled over, "coiled up in his robes." He was immediately lifted, and bravely made two or three other attempts to mount the steps, but failed. The Queen then, having obtained the approval of Lord Melbourne, graciously advanced two or three steps and held out her hand for the aged peer to kiss it—an act of kindly consideration which called forth universal praise.

The Queen then advanced again to the altar, with the archbishop, and, having removed her crown, received the *sacrament* at his hands. Thereafter she resumed her crown, and her seat on the throne of homage. The archbishop pronounced the benediction; and the choir sang "Hallelujah! for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth."

The Queen then returned to King Edward's Chapel, where she was disrobed, and resumed the royal robe of purple velvet; after which she went to the west door of the Abbey and re-entered her carriage. The ceremony in the Abbey had lasted three hours and a

half. On reaching the palace, she heard the welcoming bark of her pet dog, and exclaimed quite gleefully, "That's Dash!" In spite of the fatigue of the day, her Majesty entertained a dinner-party of one hundred in the evening.

On that night, all the London theatres, and other places of public amusement, were thrown open by the Queen's command, free of charge. There were also demonstrations of joy all over the country. There was scarcely a town or a village which had not its public dinner, its bonfire, and its illumination.

It may be well to remember that the year of her Majesty's coronation was that in which the Anti-Corn-Law League was formed by Richard Cobden and John Bright, and an agitation was begun which ended, eight years later, in the Repeal of the Corn Laws. Thus her Majesty's reign and the era of Free Trade may be said to have begun together.

CHAPTER XI.

THE QUEEN'S HOME LIFE.

OF the Queen's home life at Windsor, in the interval between her coronation and her marriage, we have interesting particulars in Charles Greville's *Journals*. Her Majesty got up, he tells us, about eight o'clock, breakfasted in her own room, and was occupied for several hours thereafter with business,—reading despatches, and writing letters,—every matter of interest and importance, in every department of the Government, being laid before her.

“At eleven or twelve,” he continues, “Melbourne comes to her and stays with her an hour, more or less, according to the business he may have to transact.

“At two she rides with a large suite (and she likes to have it numerous). Melbourne always rides on her left hand, and the equerry-in-waiting generally on her right. She rides for two hours along the road, and the greater part of the time at a full gallop.

After riding, she amuses herself for the rest of the afternoon with music and singing, playing, romping with children if there are any in the castle (and she is so fond of them that she generally contrives to have some there), or in any other way she fancies. The hour of dinner is nominally half-past seven o'clock, but she seldom appears till nearly eight. The lord-in-waiting comes into the drawing-room and instructs each gentleman which lady he is to take in to dinner. When the guests are all assembled, the Queen comes in, preceded by the gentlemen of her household, and followed by the Duchess of Kent and all her ladies. She speaks to each lady, bows to the men, and goes immediately into the dining-room. She generally takes the arm of the man of the highest rank.....

“Melbourne invariably sits on her left, no matter who may be there. She remains at table the usual time, but does not suffer the men to sit long after her, for they are summoned to coffee in less than a quarter of an hour. In the drawing-room she never sits down till the men make their appearance.....The Duchess of Kent's whist-table is arranged, and then the round table is marshalled, Melbourne invariably sitting on the left hand of the Queen and remaining there without moving till the evening is at an end. At half-past eleven she goes to bed.”

The Queen's new life was a great change from the quiet and unexciting existence she had led at Kensington, and she entered with zest into the gaities of her position as well as with earnestness into its duties. "Everything," says Mr. Greville, "is new and delightful to her. She is surrounded with the most exciting and interesting enjoyments; her occupations, her pleasures, her business, her court, all present an unceasing round of gratifications. With all her prudence and discretion, she has great animal spirits; and she enters into the magnificent novelties of her position with the zest and curiosity of a child."

One remarkable effect of the change was, that it led her to put aside in the meantime all ideas of marriage. Her "cousins at Bonn" were, if not forgotten, at least kept as far as possible from her present thoughts. She even found herself framing very plausible reasons for delay. She was, in the words of the Scotch song, "ower young to marry." The prince also was too young. He had better make himself more proficient in the English tongue before he came to live among English people. All this she afterwards repented. In a note to the *Early Years of the Prince Consort*, she says: "Nor can the Queen now think without indignation against herself of her wish to keep the prince waiting for

probably three or four years, at the risk of ruining all his prospects for life, until she might feel inclined to marry. The only excuse the Queen can make for herself is in the fact that the sudden change from the secluded life at Kensington to the independence of her position as Queen-regnant at the age of eighteen, put all ideas of marriage out of her mind ; which she now most bitterly repents. A worse school for a young girl, or one more detrimental to all natural feelings and affections, cannot well be imagined than the position of a queen at eighteen, without experience and without a husband to guide and support her."

Circumstances soon arose which forced her loneliness on her attention more than ever. In May 1839, the position of Lord Melbourne's Government had become so weak that he was forced to resign, to the great grief of her Majesty, who had learned to lean upon him in her difficulties. By Melbourne's advice, she sent for the Duke of Wellington ; but he declined office on account of his age and his deafness, and advised her to send for Sir Robert Peel ; which she at once did. The interview progressed favourably until he ventured to mention the desirability of certain changes in the ladies of her Majesty's household. The Queen declared, with some warmth, that she would not consent to part with any one of them. Sir Robert

said that, in that case, he would require to consult with his friends. The Queen was firm, and the result was that Lord Melbourne resumed office.

The affair was certainly unfortunate. Peel's demand was a perfectly reasonable one. He intended to reverse the Irish policy of the late Government; but the two ladies who were most closely connected with the Queen were related to leading supporters of that policy. The Duchess of Sutherland was Mistress of the Robes; and her brother, Lord Morpeth, had been Irish Secretary. The Marchioness of Normanby was Lady of the Bed-chamber; and her husband had been Irish Viceroy. Peel protested that he could not carry on the Government if, in addition to his being in a minority in the House of Commons, the friends of the Opposition had the ear of the Sovereign. The Queen was probably misled by the idea that Peel wished to make an entire change in her household, whereas he intended to change only the two referred to. Certainly she would not have acted as she did if she had had a judicious adviser at her side. The person who was chiefly to blame in the affair was Lord Melbourne, who missed a fine opportunity of giving his royal pupil a lesson in constitutional government, and whose sense of duty had been too plainly eclipsed by his love of power.

The incident convinced King Leopold and Baron Stockmar that it was unwise and unkind to leave the young Queen, confiding as she was, and impulsive as she was apt to be, at the mercy of a selfish minister. They thought that the time had come to revive their favourite project of marriage. It was accordingly arranged that the Coburg princes should again pay a friendly visit to their royal cousin in England.

CHAPTER XII.

THE QUEEN'S MARRIAGE.

PRINCE ERNEST and Prince Albert arrived at Windsor Castle on the 10th of October 1839. They were received, if not in state, certainly with something like a demonstration, her Majesty awaiting their arrival at the head of the grand staircase. The reception was very different from that which they had experienced at Kensington three years previously. It probably sent a thrill of hope through Albert's heart. For he had not come to England with the expectation of a betrothal being entered into. On the contrary, he had made up his mind to accept delay with all its risks. When his Uncle Leopold told him, early in 1838, that it would be necessary to postpone the engagement for a few years, in consequence of his youth (he was then only nineteen), he said, "I am ready to submit to the delay, if I have only some certain assurance to go upon. But if, after waiting perhaps for three years,

I should find that the Queen no longer desired the marriage, it would place me in a very ridiculous position, and would to a certain extent ruin all the prospects of my future life."

This "certain assurance," then, was the utmost that he hoped for when he came to visit his cousin in the end of 1839. It is evident, however, that the Queen's intentions had been maturing more rapidly than any one about her supposed; for with characteristic prudence, she kept her own counsel until the proper time came to reveal it. Probably she wished to see her cousin again, and to put her own feelings and his to the test of proof before she committed herself. He came; he was seen; and he conquered—without knowing it. His appearance had changed greatly since his former visit. He had grown to be a very handsome young man—tall and stately, with finely-formed features and soft blue eyes. The day after his arrival she communicated her first impressions to her Uncle Leopold: "Albert's beauty is most striking; and he is most amiable and unaffected—in short, very fascinating. The young men are very amiable, delightful companions, and I am happy to have them here." No doubt when Uncle Leopold read these words, he congratulated himself that matters were shaping themselves as well as he could wish.

The next night there was a ball in the castle. The Queen delighted the prince by presenting a bouquet to him; and in the excess of his gallantry he cut a slit in his tunic (he wore a German uniform) so as to place it near his heart. A few more days passed very pleasantly; and then the Queen privately told Lord Melbourne (the Prime Minister) that she had taken her resolution. He expressed "the greatest satisfaction at the arrangement," saying that it would make her position more comfortable, and would, at the same time, give pleasure to the country.

Court etiquette forbade the prince, who was inferior in rank to the Queen, to propose marriage to her Majesty. The proposal had to come from her. The same evening on which she spoke to Lord Melbourne, she sent a message to Prince Albert, requesting him to speak with her in her own room the next day. Next morning he went out hunting as usual, but he returned at noon; and was soon afterwards ushered into the royal presence. What followed is best told in the words of the prince himself, written a few days afterwards to his grandmother and the Queen's:—

"The Queen sent for me alone to her room a few days ago, and declared to me, in a genuine outburst of love and affection, that I had gained her whole heart, and would make her intensely happy if I would

make her the sacrifice of sharing her life with her ; for she said she looked on it as a sacrifice. The only thing which troubled her was, that she did not think



THE QUEEN'S APARTMENTS, WINDSOR CASTLE.

she was worthy of me. The joyous openness of manner in which she told me this quite enchanted me, and I was quite carried away by it. She is really most good and amiable, and I am quite sure

Heaven has not given me into evil hands, and that we shall be happy together."

The Duchess of Kent and Prince Ernest were the two persons to whom the news was first communicated, and it gave the utmost delight to both of them. The same afternoon the Queen wrote to her Uncle Leopold an affectionate letter, telling him of her happiness. She repeated and emphasized the view she had expressed to the prince, that she was really asking him to make a great sacrifice in proposing that he should quit his country, his home, and his family for her sake. In his reply, King Leopold said: "Nothing could have given me greater pleasure than your dear letter. I had, when I learned your decision, almost the feeling of old Simeon, 'Now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace.'" As to the "sacrifice" the prince was making, the power to lighten it would lie with self: "If you love him, and are kind to him, he will easily bear the troubles of his position."

The princes remained in England a month after the engagement, and many happy days were spent together by the royal lovers. On the 14th of November they left London; and on the 23rd, the Queen made the formal announcement of her betrothal to her Privy Council. It was a very trying ordeal for a maiden queen to undergo; but she faced it bravely.

Mr. Greville says: "All the Privy Councillors (about eighty were present) had seated themselves, when the folding doors were thrown open and the Queen came in, attired in a plain morning gown, but wearing a bracelet containing Prince Albert's picture. She read the declaration in a clear, sonorous, sweet-toned voice, but her hand trembled so excessively that I wonder she was able to read the paper which she held."

"Was it not a very nervous thing to do?" the Duchess of Gloucester asked her Majesty.—"Yes," was the reply; "but I did a much more nervous thing a little while ago."—"What was that?"—"I proposed to Prince Albert."

An ordeal even more trying was the announcement to Parliament of her intended marriage. This she went through on the 16th of January 1840; but she was supported in it by the cheers of the loyal crowds that thronged the route from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall. Though party feeling ran high at the time, and the affair of the bed-chamber ladies had not been forgotten, the members of the Opposition in the House of Commons, headed by Peel, were as cordial in their congratulations as the supporters of the Government. The House of Commons voted the prince an allowance of £30,000 a-year—less than was at first proposed, because of party dissensions, but still a

handsome personal income in supplement of that of the Queen.

The 10th of February was fixed for the marriage day. On the 5th the prince, accompanied by his father and his brother, landed at Dover. After a leisurely progress, during which he was most cordially welcomed, he reached Buckingham Palace on the 8th, and was received at the entrance by the Queen and the Duchess of Kent, surrounded by the members of the household.

The Queen arranged that the marriage should take place at noon, so as to allow as many as possible of her people to witness the procession to and from the Chapel Royal, St. James's, where the ceremony was to be performed. Although the morning was cold and wet, vast crowds assembled in the Green Park at an early hour. The procession of the bridegroom started from the palace at a quarter before twelve. He wore the uniform of a British field-marshal, and over it the collar of the Garter, while the star of the same Order, set in diamonds, glittered on his breast, and the garter itself, embroidered with jewels, clasped his left knee. These ornaments were the gift of the bride. As he descended the grand staircase between his father and his brother, the trio presented a singularly striking appearance. All along the route the prince

was loudly cheered. His manly and dignified appearance won the hearts of the people.

The bride's procession followed at the interval of fifteen minutes. The Queen's dress was of white satin, adorned with orange blossoms. She wore a wreath of the same symbolic flowers, from which there descended over her shoulders, but not covering her pale and anxious face, a veil of exquisite Honiton lace. She also was adorned with the collar and other insignia of the Garter. The brooch of diamonds and sapphires on her breast was the wedding-gift of the bridegroom. The Duchess of Kent and the Duchess of Sutherland drove in the same carriage as the Queen. The enthusiasm of the crowds through which she was driven at a slow pace was extraordinary, and must have gratified her immensely.

The interior of the chapel, which was specially decorated for the occasion, presented a magnificent appearance, with its hangings of crimson velvet and gold, the splendid dresses of the ladies, and the brilliant uniforms of the men. In front of the altar there stood four chairs of state—two for the bride and bridegroom, and other two for the Duchess of Kent and the Queen-Dowager.

Shortly after twelve o'clock, Prince Albert walked up the aisle of the Chapel Royal, bowing gracefully to

either side as he advanced to the altar-rail. There he entered into conversation with Queen Adelaide, having first kissed her hand. A quarter of an hour later the Queen entered the chapel, her train borne by twelve noble maidens. Having reached the altar, she knelt in silent prayer, and then sat down.

Almost at once the ceremony, which was performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London, commenced. The bride was given away by her uncle, the Duke of Sussex. The service was the simple but impressive one of the Church of England, which makes no distinction of persons, but suffices to bind in holy wedlock either princes or peasants. When the prince put the ring on the bride's finger, the guns of the Park and the Tower, fired by pre-concerted signal, announced to the metropolis that Queen Victoria was a wedded wife. Following the established usage, the bridegroom kissed the bride. The Duke of Sussex kissed his niece on the cheek ; the Queen kissed her mother and afterwards the Queen-Dowager. Then the bride and the bridegroom walked side by side to the throne room, where the register was duly signed.

The royal party returned to the palace amid vociferous cheering, the bride and the bridegroom now occupying the same carriage. A splendid wedding breakfast followed at the palace ; and, that done, the

royal couple started for Windsor Castle, where it was arranged that the honeymoon should be spent. They were accompanied all the way by the cheering of joyous and sympathetic crowds, the demonstration reaching its climax when the voices of the boys of Eton, cheering as only English school-boys can cheer, ushered the happy pair into the bride's ancestral home.

The enthusiasm of the metropolis was reflected in every part of the country. There was no great city or important town in which there was not some demonstration of the general joy. Flags were displayed; bells were rung; salvoes of artillery rent the air; fireworks were discharged; bonfires blazed forth loyal greetings; festive gatherings, at which the royal pair were toasted, were universal. Nothing was wanting to testify to the interest with which the royal wedding was regarded by all classes of the people from the highest to the lowest, or to the hope which it had inspired that the union that day accomplished would be for the lasting good both of the Sovereign and of the State.

CHAPTER XIII.

THE QUEEN'S MARRIED LIFE.

THE Queen now entered on the happiest part of her life and reign—the twenty-one years during which the blameless Prince was her constant companion, and her meet help in all affairs, public and private, grave and gay. From the first, Prince Albert took a very just and sensible view of his position. Above all, it was an unselfish view. He resolved in his own words, “to sink his own individual existence in that of his wife, to aim at no power by himself or for himself, to shun all ostentation, to assume no separate responsibility before the public.” The unswerving faithfulness with which he adhered to these resolutions through life is very remarkable, and presents an example of devotion and noble self-effacement which is rare among men in similar positions, if not quite unique.

To have such an helpmate always beside her was

an immense relief to the Queen, and made her life very pleasant. When difficulties arose, there was some one to help her to solve them. When troubles came, there was some one to share them with her. Even the recreations of life could be entered into with greater satisfaction when it was felt that its serious affairs could be grappled with firmly as occasion arose. As formerly, the Queen devoted the hours after breakfast to business of state. The Prime Minister generally called after luncheon. The afternoon was occupied with driving or riding. For amusements, the royal pair had recourse to drawing, etching, and music, in the last of which the Prince was so proficient as to earn the praise of Mendelssohn, both as a composer and as a performer on the organ.

Four months after the royal wedding, there occurred the first of those cruel attempts on the life of the Queen by which men, either foolish or mad, have attempted to gain notoriety. A young man named Edward Oxford drew a pistol and fired twice at the Queen as she drove up Constitution Hill with her husband at her side. No harm was done; and the young man, who was at once arrested, was pronounced insane, and was ordered to be detained in a lunatic asylum during her Majesty's pleasure. At first there was great consternation in the country, but that feel-

ing soon gave place to thankfulness expressed in manifold demonstrations of joy. Some years afterwards, Oxford was released from confinement and went to Australia.

When Prince Albert had spent some time in England, his true worth began to be appreciated; and as there was now the prospect of an heir to the throne, Parliament passed a Regency Bill, naming him as regent in the event of the Queen's death, or of her being incapacitated for reigning for a long period. About the same time the question of precedence, which had been raised in Parliament before the marriage, but not settled, was fixed by "Letters Patent." The Prince was authorized to take rank next to the Queen on all occasions of state.

On November 21st, the Princess Royal was born at Buckingham Palace. She was christened on the 10th of February following—the anniversary of the marriage of her parents. By that time the Queen's recovery was perfect, and she took pleasure in showing herself among the people as much as possible, taking her place, as Mrs. Oliphant has said, "in the forefront of the national life." King Leopold visited England that summer, with his queen, and was delighted to witness the quiet happiness of his nephew and his niece in their wedded life. During the same summer, the Queen

and Prince Albert spent some weeks very pleasantly in visits to different parts of England, and were loyally entertained at the houses of several of the nobility—at Nunham, Woburn Abbey, Brocket Hall, and Hatfield House.

At that time there was great political excitement in the country. In May (1841) Sir Robert Peel carried a vote of want of confidence in the Government of Lord Melbourne. The Government resolved to appeal to the country, and the Queen's first Parliament was dissolved in June. During the elections party feeling ran very high. Though it was known that the Queen would have been glad if her old friend and faithful adviser had remained in her service, that made no difference in the cordiality of the reception given to her during her summer progress. The elections took place in August, and went against the Government. Finding himself in a minority in both Houses, Melbourne resigned, and Sir Robert Peel formed his second Government, with the Duke of Wellington in the Cabinet, though without office. Lord Melbourne took little or no part in public affairs after this. He spent his time in the enjoyment of his books and his friends till his death in 1848.

Peel was in office during the next five years. His intercourse with Prince Albert led him to form a high

opinion of his powers. To him the Prince owed his introduction to public life, for it was on Peel's suggestion that he was placed at the head of the Royal Commission charged with inquiring how the building of the new Houses of Parliament might be made conducive to the encouragement of the fine arts in the United Kingdom.

The Prince of Wales was born on November 9th, 1841. The announcement of the birth of a male heir to the crown was received in the country with enthusiasm, and roused the loyalty of the people, and their pride in their Queen, to the highest pitch. In St. George's Chapel, Windsor, on January 25th, the boy was christened "Albert Edward," with great pomp and ceremony, the King of Prussia acting as one of his godfathers.

Two other attempts on the Queen's life were made in 1842. In May, a man named John Francis fired a pistol at the Queen when she was driving down Constitution Hill, but did no harm. He was sentenced to death, but was reprieved, and was transported for life. About a month later, a hunchback named Bean was seen to point a pistol at the Queen as she drove to St. James's Chapel; but as the pistol was not discharged, she knew nothing of it till afterwards. Bean was imprisoned for eighteen months. The Queen told Sir

Robert Peel that she expected these attempts to be repeated as long as the law dealt with them only as acts of high treason. This suggestion led to a change in the law. A bill was passed in Parliament constituting an attempt on the life of the sovereign a high misdemeanour punishable with transportation, or with imprisonment with or without hard labour, and with the addition of flogging. Several attacks on the Queen have been made since the law was changed, but they have been too trivial to deserve serious notice.

The Queen and Prince Albert paid their first visit to Scotland in the autumn of 1842. They embarked in the *Royal George* yacht at Woolwich, and they landed at Granton, near Edinburgh, on the 1st of September. They drove to Dalkeith Palace, where they were the guests of the Duke of Buccleuch, and where a few days afterwards her Majesty held a *levée*. A state visit to Edinburgh and its ancient castle gave the Scottish people an opportunity of displaying their loyalty, and they did so in a manner that caused the Queen both surprise and delight. After a visit to Perth and Scone, some days were spent with the Marquis of Breadalbane at Taymouth Castle, in the middle of Perthshire. There the Queen and the Prince had their first experience of a Highland welcome, and it was such as to make them feel thoroughly

at home among the Scottish mountains, and love the Highlands ever afterwards.

They afterwards visited Lord and Lady Willoughby D'Eresby, at Drummond Castle, near Crieff. On their return to Edinburgh, the University conferred on the Prince the degree of LL.D.; the first of many honours of the kind which he received. So delighted was the Queen with her Scottish tour that, before leaving the country, she caused the Earl of Aberdeen (the Minister of State in attendance) to write as follows:—"The Queen cannot leave Scotland without a feeling of regret that her visit on the present occasion could not be further prolonged. Her Majesty fully expected to witness the loyalty and attachment of her Scottish subjects; but the devotion and enthusiasm evinced in every quarter, and by all ranks, have produced an impression on the mind of her Majesty which can never be effaced."

In August 1843, the Queen and the Prince went on a yachting cruise round the Isle of Wight and along the south coast of England, and then crossed to France to visit King Louis Philippe. As this was the first occasion on which an English sovereign had set foot in France since Henry the Eighth and Francis the First met on the Field of the Cloth of Gold (1520), the event was one of historical importance. Scarcely less significant

was the return visit of the French king to Windsor in October 1844. These events showed that England and France, which for so many centuries had been deadly foes, were now friendly with each other. Between these visits, the Queen and the Prince visited the King of the Belgians at Brussels.

The summer of 1844 was spent at Blair Castle, in Perthshire, which was placed at the disposal of the Queen and the Prince by Lord Glenlyon, afterwards the Duke of Athole. In the following year, the Queen paid her first visit to Germany, along with her husband. They spent some time at Rosenau Castle, Prince Albert's birth-place, occupying the very room in which the Prince had been born. About this time, the Prince acquired a very desirable estate in the Isle of Wight, on which Osborne House was built.

Osborne House is delightfully situated near West Cowes, at the head of a broad lawn which descends with undulating sweep to the margin of the Solent. The place was purchased from Lady Blatchford, and the present Italian building was erected from the designs of Prince Albert. Its most striking features are the campanile and the clock tower—the former 112 and the latter 90 feet high. Part of the house was ready for occupancy in the end of 1846, and there the Queen entertained King Leopold and Baron Stockmar.

That was the year of the Repeal of the Corn Laws, which was speedily followed by the defeat of Sir Robert Peel on his Irish policy, and by his resignation. It was with sincere regret that the Queen parted with Peel, and also with his colleague, Lord Aberdeen. She had in them, she wrote, "two devoted friends," with whom she felt perfectly safe. "Never, during the five years that they were with me, did they ever recommend a person or a thing that was not for my or the country's best." The crisis, however, enabled her to realize more fully the value of her husband's counsel. "Albert's use to me," she wrote, "and I may say to the country, by his firmness and sagacity in these moments of trial, is beyond all belief." The new Prime Minister was Lord John Russell (afterwards Earl Russell), in whom the Queen found another trusty counsellor.

In the autumn of 1847, the Scottish Highlands were again chosen as the scene of the annual holiday. It took the form of a yachting tour on the west coast, in the course of which a pleasant visit was paid to the Duke of Argyll at Inveraray Castle, where her Majesty saw for the first time her future son-in-law, the Marquis of Lorne, then two years old—"a dear, white, fat, fair little fellow, with reddish hair, but very delicate features."

In the year 1848, an epidemic of revolutions spread

over the Continent. Many thrones were shaken, and that of the Queen's good friend, Louis Philippe, was overthrown. He became a refugee in England, and had Claremont House assigned to him as a residence. The revolutionary poison affected Belgium, Prussia, Austria, Italy, and Spain. Its arrival in England was awaited with some fear, but at the same time with much composure. There, the distemper took the comparatively mild form of Chartist processions. In March, a great open-air meeting of Chartists was held on Kennington Common, with the twofold purpose of overawing the metropolis, and of presenting a monster petition to the House of Commons. But the Government Offices were put into an admirable condition of defence by the Duke of Wellington and Sir Richard Mayne, the head of the London police, and the leaders of the malcontents were made aware of the dispositions. The ardour of the revolutionists was further damped by a shower of rain, and the affair turned out to be harmless and rather contemptible.

CHAPTER XIV.

THE QUEEN'S HIGHLAND HOME.

EVER since the first visit of the Queen and Prince Albert to the Highlands of Scotland in 1842, their partiality for the

“Land of brown heath and shaggy wood,
Land of the mountain and the flood,”

had been manifestly and steadily growing. The exhilarating mountain air, and the free life among the hills and dales, were to the Queen very charming; and to these were added for the Prince the irresistible attractions of grouse-shooting and deer-stalking on the moors and the upland forests. In the summer of 1848, the Prince leased from the Earl of Fife the old and picturesque castle of Balmoral on Deeside, with its dependent moors and forests. There several very happy summers were spent; and so much were they delighted with the place that, a few

years afterwards, Prince Albert became by purchase the proprietor of the estate, and built on it a new mansion-house—the present Balmoral Castle, the Queen's much-loved Highland home, beautifully situated on the right bank of the river Dee.

Year after year, and often twice a year, the Queen sojourned quietly for a few weeks at a time in this charming retreat. When living there, all state and ceremony were cast aside. The life led by the Queen and her royal husband in the midst of their children was family life of the simplest and homeliest character. Charles Greville, who had occasion to visit Balmoral as Clerk to the Privy Council in 1849, was surprised to find that the Queen had no military guard: "There are no soldiers, and the entire guard of the Sovereign and the whole royal family is a single policeman, who walks about the grounds to keep off impertinent intruders or improper characters. The Prince shoots every morning, returns to luncheon, and then they walk and drive. The Queen is running in and out of the house all day long, and often goes about alone, walks into the cottages, and sits down and chats with the old women."

Prince Albert frequently drove the Queen and their children about the country in a pony carriage without any escort or attendants excepting a single servant on



BALMORAL CASTLE

the box. Sometimes they made longer excursions to a shooting lodge beside Loch Muick, a lonely lake among the mountains, where they spent a day or two. During her first visit to Balmoral, the Queen rode to the top of "dark Lochnagar" (3,800 feet) on a pony, and enjoyed a magnificent view. On Sundays the royal family attended the old parish church of Crathie, occupying a pew in the front of the gallery, surrounded by their servants and retainers, in the manner of a Highland chieftain.

The Queen and the Prince usually witnessed the Highland sports held every summer at Mar Castle or at Invercauld House. They watched with great interest the dancing of the Highlanders, and their wonderful feats of putting the stone and tossing the caber, and they grew to love the wild notes of the bag-pipes. On these occasions, and indeed generally when living at Balmoral, the Prince wore the kilt and the Highland plaid, and very handsome he looked.

The new castle at Balmoral was occupied for the first time in the summer of 1856. It is built in the Scottish baronial style, its most prominent feature being a tall square turreted tower, which is seen from a great distance in all directions. The interior also is in the style of old Scottish mansions. The hall and passages are adorned with deer's heads and other

trophies of the chase. The house is furnished with an eye to comfort and simplicity rather than to luxury or grandeur.

There is one aspect of the life of Queen Victoria for which the nation is indebted to Balmoral: it has made her Majesty take a place among royal authors. In her book entitled *Leaves from the Journal of our Life in the Highlands*, published in 1868, and in its sequel *More Leaves from my Journal*, she has given her subjects many charming glimpses of the simple life which she led there with her husband and her children during the thirteen happy years that preceded his death. These books reveal very pleasantly and modestly the delight of the Queen in beautiful and picturesque scenery, and not less her love of humour and her goodness of heart.

The Queen gives a very amusing account of a journey in Strathspey, which she and Prince Albert once made in disguise. They had with them Lady Churchill and General Grey, and two men, Grant and Brown. They decided to travel as *Lord and Lady Churchill*. Lady Churchill passed as *Miss Spencer*, and General Grey as *Dr. Grey*. They started from Balmoral early in the morning, and drove to a point five miles beyond the Linn of Dee, where ponies awaited them. On these they rode over the Gram-

pians to Loch Inch, in Strathspey. Having been ferried across the loch, they found two hired carriages awaiting them—a barouche and a brake. In these they drove down Strathspey to Grantown. “On and on we went,” writes the Queen, “till at length we saw lights, and drove through a long and straggling ‘toun’ (Grantown), and turned down a small court to the door of the inn. Here we got out quickly—Lady Churchill and General Grey not waiting for us. We went up a small staircase, and were shown to our bed-room at the top of it—very small, but clean—with a large four-post bed which nearly filled the whole room. Opposite was the drawing-and-dining-room in one—very tidy and well-sized. Then came the room where Albert dressed, which was very small. The two maids (Jane Shackle was with me) had driven over by another road in the waggonette, Stewart driving them.

“We made ourselves ‘clean and tidy,’ and then sat down to our dinner. Grant and Brown were to have waited on us, but were ‘bashful,’ and did not. A ringleted woman did everything; and, when dinner was over, removed the cloth and placed the bottle of wine (our own, which we had brought,) on the table with the glasses,—which was the old English fashion. The dinner was very fair, and all very clean:—soup,

‘hodge-podge,’ mutton-broth with vegetables (which I did not much relish), fowl with white sauce, good roast lamb, very good potatoes, besides one or two other dishes (which I did not taste), ending with a good tart of cranberries.”

They rose early next morning and breakfasted on “good tea and bread and butter, and some excellent porridge.” About ten o’clock “we started in the same carriages and the same way as yesterday, and drove up to Castle Grant, Lord Seafield’s place,—a fine (not Highland-looking) park, with a very plain-looking house, like a factory, about two miles from the town. It was drizzling almost the whole time. We did not get out, but drove back, having to pass through Grantown again; where evidently “the murder was out,” for all the people were in the street, and the landlady waved her pocket-handkerchief, and the ringleted maid (who had curl-papers in the morning) waved a flag from the window. Our coachman evidently did not observe or guess anything. As we drove out of the town, turning to our right through a wood, we met many people coming into the town, which the coachman said was for a funeral.”

Having crossed the Spey at Bridge of Spey, they drove up Glen Avon to Tomintoul; “the most tumble-down, poor looking place I ever saw—a long

street with three inns, miserable, dirty-looking houses and people, and a sad look of wretchedness about it." Beyond Tomintoul, they met the ponies that had been sent up for them, on which they rode to Loch Builg, where the Balmoral carriage awaited them. They were puzzled to know how their secret had got out at Grantown. "We heard since that the secret came out through a man recognizing Albert in the street yesterday morning; then the crown on the dog-cart made them think that it was some one from Balmoral, though they never suspected that it could be ourselves! 'The lady must be terrible rich,' the woman observed, as I had so many gold rings on my fingers! I told Lady Churchill she had on many more than I had. When they heard who it was, they were ready to drop with astonishment and fright.—I fear I have but poorly recounted this very amusing and never-to-be-forgotten expedition, which will always be remembered with delight."

Some note must be taken of the events of a more public character which belong to this time, and in which the Queen was interested.

Before going to Balmoral in 1849—the year of the Sikh War which ended in the annexation of the Punjâb—her Majesty paid her first visit to Ireland,

landing at the Cove of Cork, which, in honour of the event, had its name changed to "Queenstown." Her reception everywhere, but especially in Dublin, was most enthusiastic and impressive, all the natural warmth of the Irish heart glowing in outbursts of loyalty.

In the beginning of July, in the following year, the whole nation was saddened by the death of Sir Robert Peel. He was thrown from his horse on Constitution Hill, and died three days afterwards from his injuries. The Queen mourned for him sincerely. Prince Albert very justly described him as "the best of men, our truest friend, the strongest bulwark of the throne, the greatest statesman of his time."

On the occasion of her visit to Edinburgh in 1850, the Queen occupied the ancient Palace of Holyrood for the first time. The palace stands close to the Queen's Park, and near the foot of Salisbury Crags. The building which originally occupied its site was an abbey, founded by David the First in 1128, which became a favourite royal residence. The first palace, built chiefly by James the Fifth, was the favourite home of Mary, Queen of Scots. The only part of the old palace now existing is the north-western tower, in which are Queen Mary's rooms, in the state in which she occupied them. The greater part of the present quad-

HOLYROOD PALACE — EDINBURGH



angular building was erected after the restoration of King Charles the Second. The only part of the ancient abbey remaining is the ruined chapel, with its beautiful western doorway.

On the morning after her arrival, the Queen and Prince Albert, with their children, climbed to the top of Arthur's Seat, and witnessed the wonderful panoramic view which it affords. Since that time, the Queen has frequently been an inmate of Holyrood, making it a resting-place in her journeys to and from Balmoral.

The Prince feared that Peel's death might necessitate the abandonment of the great Exhibition, in organizing which he had heartily co-operated with the Prince ; but fortunately that fear was not realized. The Exhibition in Sir Joseph Paxton's Crystal Palace in Hyde Park was opened successfully, and with great splendour, on May 1st, 1851. The ceremony was performed by the Queen, Prince Albert acting as chief commissioner. To him the credit of the great project—the first of many similar displays—was chiefly due. The spectacle was magnificent. The Queen said that the only event of which it reminded her in the slightest degree was the coronation ; “ but this day's festival was a thousand times superior.”

The Queen was in the Highlands in the autumn of

1852, as usual, when she heard with deep sorrow of the death of the Duke of Wellington in his eighty-fourth year. "His position," wrote the Queen, "was the highest a subject ever had—above party, looked up to by all, revered by the whole nation, the friend of his sovereign; and how simply he carried these honours!"

The Crimean War began in 1854. It was preceded by a ministerial crisis for which Prince Albert was most unjustly blamed. Lord Palmerston, who was Home Secretary in Lord Aberdeen's Ministry, resigned office, partly because he could not approve of Lord John Russell's Reform Bill, and partly because he thought the Government's policy against Russia was not sufficiently decided. Prince Albert was accused of having caused his resignation on account of his (the Prince's) sympathy with Russia, and very bitter articles were written against him in the newspapers. The explanations of Lord Aberdeen and Lord John Russell in Parliament proved that the rumours were entirely unfounded. The incident helped to put the Prince's position in a clearer light before the country, and really increased his popularity.

During the Crimean War, the Emperor and the Empress of the French visited the Queen at Windsor, and the Queen and Prince Albert returned the visit

four months later. Between these visits the Queen performed the interesting ceremony of presenting medals to some of the soldiers who had returned from the Crimea. "Noble fellows!" she wrote. "I own I feel as if they were my own children; my heart beats for them as for my nearest and dearest."

The Queen was at Balmoral in September 1855, when the news arrived of the taking of Sebastopol. The news reached Balmoral at half-past ten at night; but late as it was Prince Albert and the gentlemen at the castle, with all the servants and ghillies, started for Craig Gowan hill, overlooking the castle, on which a bonfire had been prepared. In a few minutes the joyful news of victory was flashed over the hills of Deeside.

In June 1857, her Majesty made the first presentation of the "Victoria" Cross, awarded to soldiers "For Valour." About the same time the title of "Prince Consort" was conferred on Prince Albert by Royal Letters Patent. That was the year also of the Indian Mutiny and the terrible massacre of Cawnpore—an event which caused the Queen the most acute grief. The Volunteer movement began in 1859. In June of the following year the Queen reviewed an army of 20,000 citizen soldiers in Hyde Park. In August, at Edinburgh, on her way to Balmoral, 18,000 Scottish

volunteers were reviewed in the Queen's Park. On March 15th, 1861, the Duchess of Kent died, to the great grief both of the Queen and of her husband. In returning from the Highlands in October, the Prince Consort laid the foundation stone of the New General Post Office, at Edinburgh, and of the Industrial Museum in the same city—memorable as the last public ceremonies which the Prince performed.

CHAPTER XV.

THE QUEEN'S WIDOWHOOD.

SUDDENLY, when the life of the Queen seemed to have reached its brightest moment, all the light in it was extinguished by the death of her much-loved husband. The Prince had been ailing for some time before his illness assumed a serious or definite aspect. First he suffered from sleeplessness. Then he caught a chill while inspecting the new Staff College buildings at Sandhurst. That was on November 22nd. Yet three days later he was able to travel to Cambridge, to see the Prince of Wales. On his return, he was much distressed by the *Trent* affair, which threatened to cause a rupture between this country and the United States. Chiefly, it is believed, by his advice, a friendly despatch was sent to the Government at Washington, and friendly relations were preserved. The action of Captain Wilkes, who had arrested the Confederate envoys on board of

the *Trent*, was disowned, and the envoys were released.

On the 28th, the Prince appeared in public for the last time at an inspection of the Eton College volunteers. Thereafter he grew worse rapidly, and it was impossible to conceal from the Queen the serious nature of his malady. During his closing days, the Queen and the Princess Alice were unremitting in their devoted attention to him; but the chief burden fell on the princess. Nothing was lacking that the highest medical skill and the most careful nursing could do for the patient; but in spite of all he gradually sank. On the exhaustion caused by the fever, congestion of the lungs supervened; and then it became evident that the case was hopeless. On the afternoon of Saturday, December 14th, 1861, the Prince passed quietly away in painless peace, the Queen and her children kneeling around his bed.

The Sunday following was a sad day for the whole British nation, a sadder for the royal family, and saddest of all for the widowed Queen. Hers was no ordinary loss. In proportion to the help and comfort which her husband had afforded her during twenty-one eventful but happy years, was the sense of desolation and utter helplessness which his premature removal produced. He was only forty-two years of age,

and might have been expected, in the course of nature, to live for many years longer to aid the Queen in governing her great and ever-growing empire. Though the blow was crushing, the Queen's natural energy, combined with her sense of duty and her Christian resignation, enabled her to meet and to survive it. Calling her children to her side, she declared to them her resolution to endeavour still to do her duty to the country, and she besought them to aid her in her efforts.

Almost at once the Queen resolved to build a mausoleum at Frogmore for the reception of the beloved remains. In the meantime, it was arranged that they should rest in the royal vault of St. George's Chapel, Windsor. There, accordingly, they were deposited with stately ceremony, but without much display, on December 23rd—a day observed universally as one of national mourning and humiliation. The Queen had at least the consolation of knowing that her people sympathized with her in the greatest sorrow of her life. She was gratified also by the high estimate which was universally formed of the Prince's character. If the nation had not done him full justice while he lived, that must have been because the greatness of the place he filled, and the admirable way in which he filled it, had not been realized.

“Not till the oak is felled can it be seen
How large a shade its bosky splendour spread.”

The enormous blank caused by his removal, forced men to feel how important his work had been and how faithfully he had performed it. He lived a pure and earnest life, without reproach and beyond the reach of slander, his one aim being to lighten the labours of his wife and to aid her in bettering the people whom she ruled. Now all this was admitted and felt; and the more strongly it was felt, the more sincerely was the Prince mourned.

The following "Nation's Prayer," published in *Blackwood's Magazine*, fitly embodied the national sentiment:—

" Lord God, on bended knee
Three kingdoms cry to thee,
God save the Queen !
God of all tenderness,
Lighten her load, and bless,
Deep in her first distress—
God save the Queen !

" Hold thou our Lady's hand,
Bid her arise and stand—
God save the Queen !
Grant her thy comfort, Lord ;
Husband ! thy arm afford ;
Father ! fulfil thy word—
God save the Queen !

" Thou hast given gladness long ;
Make her in sorrow strong—
God save the Queen !
Dry our dear Lady's tears,
Succour her lonely years,
Safe through all woes and fears,
God keep the Queen !

“ Sweet from this sudden gloom
Bring thou life's perfect bloom—
 God save the Queen !
Thou who hast sent the blow,
Wisdom and grace bestow
Out of this cloud of woe—
 God save the Queen ! ”

In spite of her brave resolution, the Queen remained in seclusion for a long time after her bereavement. Though she was unable to take an active part in public affairs, she schooled herself into taking much interest in them. Especially was this the case when the second International Exhibition was opened in London in May 1862. She regarded it as a national tribute to the memory of the Prince, with whom the first Exhibition had originated. In March she had laid the foundation stone of the mausoleum at Frogmore, “erected,” as the inscription bore, “by Queen Victoria, in pious remembrance of her great and good husband ;” and on December 18th, the loved remains were transported to this, their last resting-place.

The next event of importance was the marriage of the Prince of Wales to the Princess Alexandra of Denmark, on March 10th, 1863. The union gave unbounded satisfaction not only to the Queen, but also to the whole nation, in whose regard the princess has won a place second only to that of her Majesty. In the summer, the Queen inaugurated at Balmoral

the splendid granite pyramid erected to the memory of the Prince Consort "by his broken-hearted widow."

The Queen at last emerged from her seclusion on February 6th, 1866, when, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, she opened Parliament in person. Her reappearance in public gave great pleasure to her subjects, many of whom had begun to complain of her prolonged retirement. In the following year—the year of the second Reform Act—General Grey's volume, entitled *The Early Years of His Royal Highness the Prince Consort*, was published, and threw much welcome light on the early life and character of the Prince. In May, her Majesty laid the foundation stone of the Royal Albert Hall at South Kensington, beside which there soon arose the "Albert Memorial," a national monument to the greatness and worth of the noble and blameless Prince.

The Albert Memorial stands opposite the Royal Albert Hall, on the south of Kensington Gardens, the Kensington Road separating them. It is a sumptuous and highly ornate structure. A colossal bronze-gilt figure of the Prince, in the robes of the Garter, sits under a richly decorated canopy supported on granite columns. Above the canopy rises a Gothic spire surmounted by a cross. On the basement are marble bas-reliefs, representing painters, poets, musicians,



THE ALBERT MEMORIAL

sculptors, and architects of every period and nation. The monument cost £110,000, of which £50,000 was voted by Parliament. The statue, which is by Foley, was not unveiled till 1876.

In March 1871, the Queen presided at the opening of the Royal Albert Hall; and in November of the same year the nation was alarmed by the news that the Prince of Wales had been seized with typhoid fever at Sandringham, and was dangerously ill. On the 14th of December—the anniversary of the Prince Consort's death—when the worst fears were entertained, the disease happily took a favourable turn, and from that day the Prince continued to improve. The 27th of February 1872 was observed as a day of national thanksgiving for the Prince's recovery. On that day the Queen, accompanied by the Prince and Princess of Wales and other members of the royal family, attended a thanksgiving service in St. Paul's Cathedral, in which the spirit of the whole nation joined.

A few months later, the Queen was called on to deplore the death of the Rev. Dr. Norman Macleod of Glasgow, whose visits to Balmoral and whose preaching she used to enjoy greatly, and to whom personally she was much attached. "No one," she wrote, "ever raised and strengthened one's faith more than Dr. Macleod. His own faith was so strong, and his

heart so large, that all, high and low, weak and strong, the erring and the good, could alike find sympathy, help, and consolation from him."

Towards the close of the year 1874, there was published the first volume of Sir Theodore Martin's interesting *Life of the Prince Consort*. In October of the next year, the Prince of Wales left England on a memorable visit to India, which very much gratified the Indian subjects of the Crown. While he was still in the East, the Queen, by authority of Parliament, assumed the title of "Empress of India." Another of her children became more closely connected with another of her great dependencies in 1878, when the Princess Louise accompanied her husband, the Marquis of Lorne, to Canada, of which he had been appointed Governor-General. A month later, the Queen had to bear the second great trial of her life, in the death of her beloved daughter, the Princess Alice of Hesse. She was cut off by diphtheria, caught from one of her children whom she was nursing; and she died on the anniversary of the death of her father.

With Benjamin Disraeli, who was her Prime Minister for six years (1874-1880), the Queen formed the same kind of personal attachment which had formerly subsisted between her Majesty and Melbourne, Peel, and Wellington. To him she owed her

imperial title, and she raised him to the peerage with the title of Earl of Beaconsfield. A year after his retirement from office, in which he was succeeded by Mr. W. E. Gladstone, he died full of years and of honours. When President Garfield yielded up his life to the vengeance of an assassin in September 1881, the Queen contributed a wreath to his obsequies, as "an expression of her sorrow, and her sympathy with Mrs. Garfield and the American nation."

The Queen had to mourn the death of another of her children in March 1884—Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany. The prince had been of a delicate constitution since childhood, and he had gone to Cannes for the benefit of his health. He fell when ascending a flight of stairs, and sprained his knee, which was previously weak. Apoplexy suddenly supervened, and he sank rapidly. His loss was deeply felt. He was the most accomplished and intellectual of the Queen's sons, resembling in this respect his lamented father.

Recent years have been filled with public and political events of the greatest interest. There have been wars in Afghanistan, in Zululand, in the Transvaal, in Egypt, in the Soudan; in all of which the Queen has followed the movements of her brave soldiers with sympathy and admiration. There have also been great political crises at home, in connection

with parliamentary reform, with the mode of conducting business in the House of Commons, and chiefly in connection with the state of Ireland; but while she has watched the contending currents, she has carefully preserved her position as a constitutional monarch, and has scrupulously abstained from the slightest indication of partisanship. In January 1886, her Majesty again opened Parliament in person. Latterly she has mingled more freely with her people than she ever did before, even in the early years of her reign. She opened the Colonial and Indian Exhibition in London in May 1886, and afterwards visited International Exhibitions of Industry at Liverpool and Edinburgh. She is ever ready with words of kind sympathy for those who, like herself, have been sorely tried by bereavement. Then the light as well as the shadow in her heart comes out. Writing of the death of Principal Tulloch (February 1886) she said, "*Never again!* These dreadful words I so often have had to repeat make my heart turn sick;" but she immediately added, "God's will be done!" Nothing has given her people greater pleasure than the brave efforts she has always made to conquer her trials; rising from them, chastened and ennobled, to the performance of those public duties which she discharges, not in the fear of man, but in the eye of God.

CHAPTER XVI.

THE QUEEN'S CHILDREN.

MENTION has already been made of the birth of the Queen's two eldest children — the Princess Royal and the Prince of Wales. It will be most convenient to give a complete list of her family at this stage of the story.

The Princess Royal, born in 1840, was married in 1858 to Frederic William, Crown Prince of Prussia, now Prince Imperial of Germany. They have had eight children, two of whom are dead. Other two are married and have children, so that the Queen is both a grandmother and a great-grandmother.

The Prince of Wales, born in 1841, was married in 1863 to Princess Alexandra of Denmark, and has five children, the eldest of whom, Albert Victor, born in 1864, is heir-apparent to the throne. A second son, George, was born in 1865. The other three children are daughters.

The Princess Alice, born in 1843, was married in 1862 to Prince Louis of Hesse, now Louis the Fourth, Grand Duke of Hesse, and had seven children. Two are dead, other two are married, one of whom has a daughter, Alice. The Princess Alice died in 1878, deeply regretted by the British nation.

Prince Alfred (Duke of Edinburgh), born in 1844, married in 1874 the Grand-Duchess Marie of Russia, and has five children,---one son, Alfred, born in 1874, and four daughters.

The Princess Helena, born in 1846, married in 1866 Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, and has had five children, one of whom died in 1876.

The Princess Louise, born in 1848, was married in 1871 to the Marquis of Lorne, eldest son of the Duke of Argyle.

Prince Arthur (Duke of Connaught), born in 1850, was married in 1879 to the Princess Louise-Margaret, daughter of the late Prince Frederic Charles of Prussia, and has three children.

Prince Leopold (Duke of Albany), born in 1853, married in 1882 the Princess Helena of Waldeck, and had two children. The Duke of Albany died at Cannes in 1884, and the Queen has erected a chapel there to his memory.

The Princess Beatrice, born in 1857, married in

1885 Prince Henry of Battenburg, and has one child.

The Queen has had in all nine children (four sons and five daughters), of whom two are dead; thirty-six grandchildren, of whom five are dead; and five great-grandchildren, all of whom are living. The total number of her Majesty's descendants has thus been fifty, of whom forty-three are still alive.

CHAPTER XVII.

CHARACTER OF THE QUEEN'S REIGN.

THE period covered by the reign of Queen Victoria may be said to stand alone in British history. The leading events of previous periods were their wars. Now, for the first time, the British people have devoted nearly half a century, in almost unbroken tranquillity, to the work of improving their own condition and cultivating the arts of peace. The inestimable advantages which they have thereby gained illustrate the impolicy of the course which their warlike forefathers pursued, and which fatally hindered progress toward enlightenment and material well-being.

The reign of Victoria has not been rich in the discovery of new truths, either in political or in mechanical science. Its greatness lies rather in its wide application of truths which formed a portion of its inheritance. Its function has not been that of

the sower ; it has been the more lucrative function of the reaper. The political doctrines which have transformed the nation—the equality of political rights, and the freedom of trade—were thought out for us many years before they were generally accepted. The abuses which we have corrected were perceived by men who lived so long ago that their discoveries gained for them only contempt and suspicion.

The steam-engine of James Watt had been seventy years at work when Queen Victoria ascended the throne. The power-loom and the spinning-frame were nearly as old. The railway-train had set out on its marvellous journey ; on our coasts and on our rivers there were already many steam-boats. The electric telegraph had been for years the subject of constant experiment. None of these magnificent conceptions took its origin within the reign the character of which they have assisted so powerfully to mould. The merit of discovery, or of invention, belongs to an earlier period ; to us belongs the merit of their application on a scale not unworthy of their grandeur.

From its very outset, the reign of Queen Victoria has been made illustrious by splendid victories in every province of peaceful effort. In its first year the telegraph ceased to be a speculation, and became a

familiar method of transmitting intelligence. In its second year the people of New York were moved by a deep impulse of surprise and delight when they learned that, for the first time, a steam-ship from Europe had arrived in their bay. In its third year the precious boon of cheap conveyance of letters was conferred on the people. In its sixth year women and children were mercifully protected against the unduly prolonged hours of labour, which the demands of a rapidly expanding commerce imposed on them, and which were enfeebling the race. In its eighth year England announced her adoption of a policy of free trade with all the world, and began with injudicious, although it ultimately proved beneficent, haste to link her towns and her villages together by means of railways. The submarine telegraph, linking continent with continent, and annihilating at once space and time, and the telephone, making speech audible at a distance of many miles, must take rank with the greatest triumphs of science, and belong distinctly to the achievements of her Majesty's reign.

The liberation of commerce, with enlarged personal intercourse between individuals and nations, resulted in a vast industrial expansion, and a corresponding improvement in the condition of the people. In oc-

cupations such as these the years of this remarkable reign have been spent. It was not, however, till more than thirty of those years had passed that the nation took up the work which should have been one of its earliest—the education of every child born on its soil.

The progress of geographical discovery has extended greatly our knowledge of the Earth. The secret of the North-west Passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean was solved by the hapless Sir John Franklin and by Captain Robert Maclure; while more recently Sir George Nares penetrated the Polar regions to a point farther north than had ever been reached before, though it has since been surpassed by an American explorer, Lieutenant Greeley. In Africa, the basin of the Zambesi was explored by David Livingstone, who discovered the great Victoria Falls, and dispelled the notion that Central Africa is a barren desert. The Dark Continent was crossed from shore to shore by Cameron and by Stanley, the latter tracing the Congo through its fertile basin from source to mouth. The Nile has been explored by Speke and Grant, who discovered the Victoria N'yanza; and by Sir Samuel Baker, who made us acquainted with the Albert N'yanza, more recently explored by Stanley. In Australia, the travels of Sturt and Stuart, and the

tragic expedition of Burke and Wills, belong to her Majesty's reign ; and the Island Continent, which was long deemed impenetrable, is now traversed from north to south by a telegraph line.

The Victorian era has been one of the richest and most varied in the history of English literature. In poetry we have to record the names of Campbell, Southey, Wordsworth, Moore, Hemans, Tennyson, Browning, Mrs. Browning, Swinburne, Morris, and Rossetti ; in prose fiction, those of Lytton, Dickens, Thackeray, George Eliot, Brontë, Lever, and Oliphant ; in history, those of Alison, Arnold, Hallam, Macaulay, Carlyle, Burton, Buckle, Grote, Green, Kinglake, Froude, Freeman, and Gardiner ; in theology, those of Newman, Trench, Alford, Taylor, Chalmers, Maurice, Stanley, and Tulloch. There are great names also in the annals of science, invention, and discovery — Herschel, Mary Somerville, Brewster, Faraday, Lyell, Murchison, Hugh Miller, Darwin, Huxley, Tyndall, the Stephensons, Layard, Brunel, Wheatstone, and Cooke. In the fine arts, there are the names of Wilkie, Chantrey, Turner, Landseer, Millais, Holman Hunt, Grant, and Leighton. The traditions of Parliamentary eloquence have been maintained by Robert Peel, John Bright, Daniel O'Connell, Richard Lalor Sheil, Benjamin Disraeli, and William Ewart Gladstone.

The British dominion has almost doubled its area during the present reign. In India and the East we have possessed ourselves of Sindh, the Punjâb, Oudh, and Burma. In Africa we have added Natal, Kafirland, Bechuanaland, and Zululand. Above all, we have assumed in Canada the government of a region formerly owned by the Hudson Bay Company, and not much smaller than the whole of Europe. For the most part that is a land scarcely inhabited, and is interesting to mankind chiefly as the destined home of English-speaking nations yet unborn.

The subjects of Queen Victoria have not, except in India, increased in proportion to the increase of territory. The population of Great Britain has, indeed, increased to the extent of one-half. England has added nine million to her population, and Scotland has added fully one million. But from these liberal additions there falls to be deducted the loss of population in the sister island. From the very opening of the Queen's reign there has been a steady diminution of the Irish population. That diminution is not now less than three million.

The Lady whose reign covers this remarkable period of history has given abundant evidence that she is worthy of her exalted destiny. By the mother's side she is descended from a race long distinguished

by firmness of will, and calmness and soundness of judgment; and she is amply endowed with these hereditary qualities. She has clearly understood the character of constitutional monarchy, and has faithfully kept within the limits which the public will has imposed on the royal authority.

In no respect, however, has the Queen benefited her country more than by the influence which her domestic life has exercised in promoting the improvement of public morals. The intellectual ability recognized in the Queen and the Prince Consort, and their manifest devotion to the public good, added largely to the authority which their high station conferred on them, and disposed the nation to be guided by their example. The Queen and the Prince lived conspicuously blameless lives in the earnest and effective discharge of family and of public duties. Their example powerfully reinforced the influences which ushered in a higher moral tone than had distinguished previous reigns. The service thus rendered to the nation was valuable beyond all estimate.

The reign of Queen Victoria is unmatched in respect of the vastness and the swiftness of the social revolutions which it has witnessed. Is the distinction to be enduring, or will future epochs surpass the present as far as the present has surpassed those that

lie behind us? The harvest of improvement is not yet reaped. Manifold discoveries still wait to crown the keen-eyed and patient seeker.

But our greatest revolutions have now been accomplished. It was a revolution when an engine moved by steam was added to the possession of man. It was a revolution when the traveller, who previously had crept on his journey at the rate of seven or eight miles an hour, gained suddenly the pace of fifty miles. It was a revolution when intelligence, previously dependent on the speed of horses, could be transmitted to incredible distances without appreciable lapse of time. Valuable modifications of these great inventions are still possible, but such modifications cannot bring with them great social changes. The reign of Queen Victoria will probably be for ever renowned as the epoch during which changes unequalled in their grandeur and beneficence passed on the social condition of the British people.

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE.

THE Queen completes the Fiftieth Year of her reign — her Jubilee Year — on June 20th, 1887. Already the glorious event is being celebrated with demonstrations of love and loyalty in all parts of her dominions—that is to say, in every quarter of the globe. When the glad day comes round, the prayer, “God save the Queen!” uttered by English-speaking lips, will greet the sunrise every hour of the twenty-four, until the circuit of the world is made.

As the happy day breaks on the British Isles, the centre of the vast empire, the Queen receives the greetings of her family, her court, and her immediate subjects. Ere the guns of the Tower at noon have ceased to thunder forth the congratulations of the nation, all Canada is awake, and the West Indies are in full activity, and three or four millions more, who are proud to call themselves British subjects,—

—together, doubtless, with the forty millions of English-speaking people in the United States—take up the song, “God save the Queen!”

Its echoes have not died out in Victoria, the most westerly of VICTORIA'S capitals, ere our brothers and sisters in New Zealand take up the loyal cry. One hour later the dawn reaches Australia and Tasmania, and there thousands of loyal hearts are ready to respond to the prayer, “God save our Queen!” Next it is taken up by the busy merchants of Hong-Kong and Singapore, and is passed on by them to the millions of India who own Victoria as their Empress.

Before the day is an hour old at Bombay, it has dawned on Mauritius. Next it awakens the watchmen of Aden. Almost at the same time it flushes the mountains of Natal and Cape Colony, where there are thousands of Englishmen eager to shout, “God save our Queen!” Anon, Malta is reached; and one hour later the new dawn tells the sentinels at Windsor that the joyous benediction has travelled with the sun-light from meridian to meridian round the globe.

The celebration has taken many forms, the most imposing being a thanksgiving service in Westminster Abbey, on June 21st, which will be attended by the Queen, the royal family, the court, both Houses of

Parliament, representatives of the sovereigns and rulers of nearly every country on the globe, of all the British colonies and dependencies, and of the leading cities in the British Islands. Similar services will be held in the Scottish and Irish capitals, and in other great towns.

The Jubilee is being commemorated in almost countless ways in all parts of the empire,—by the erection of monuments, hospitals, museums, and libraries, by the dedication of public parks and fountains, and by other public benefactions. Two of the projects have assumed national proportions. The one is the erection of an IMPERIAL INSTITUTE in London—a permanent national and colonial museum, association, and academy—for which there is every prospect that half a million sterling will be subscribed by the Queen's subjects in all parts of the empire. The other is a WOMEN'S JUBILEE OFFERING, to which contributions "from one penny to one pound" have been received from women of all ages, ranks, and conditions.

These, however, are merely outward emblems. The offering which the Queen prizes most is the assurance of the affection and loyalty of her people, in whose hearts she rejoices to dwell.

This brief record of her personal history may fitly close with a version of the National Anthem specially

prepared for the Jubilee celebrations, expressing as it does the heartfelt prayer of millions of the Queen's subjects :—

“God save our gracious Queen !
Long live our noble Queen !
God save the Queen !
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,—
God save the Queen !

“O Lord, our God, arise !
Scatter her enemies,
And make them fall.
Open their blinded eyes,
Lay bare all crafty lies,
Bid them be just and wise ;—
God save us all !

“Through all these fifty years,
Through all her joys and tears,
Through peace and war,
Thou hast upheld her throne,
While round it love has grown,
Binding wide realms in one
All the world o'er.

“Thy choicest gifts in store
On her be pleased to pour ;
Long may she reign !
May she defend our laws,
And ever give us cause
To sing with heart and voice,
GOD SAVE THE QUEEN !”

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